

Twelve face trial for Howard Beach lynching

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — The murder indictments in the Howard Beach lynch attack represent an important gain in the fight against racist victimizations.

Three of the accused are charged with second-degree murder. Nine others face charges ranging from attempted murder and manslaughter to assault and riot.

The grand jury findings, made public February 10, declared that the three charged with murder, acting with a "depraved indifference to human life," had caused the death of Michael Griffith, 23, a Black construction worker.

Wielding bats and tree limbs, they had pursued Griffith onto a highway where he was killed by a car.

The racist thugs had set upon Griffith and two companions in the Howard Beach area, one of New York's white enclaves.

Cedric Sandiford, Griffith's stepfather, was badly injured by members of the gang who clubbed him to the ground at the edge of the highway.

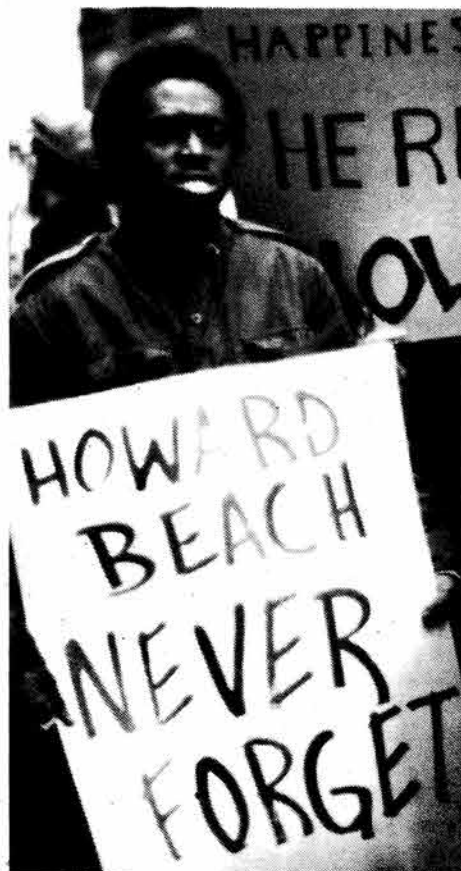
The third victim, Timothy Grimes, managed to escape his assailants.

Grand jury evidence included secret testimony by Robert Riley, one of the participants in the attack who decided to cooperate with the prosecution.

According to officials, Riley admitted he and four others were the ones who chased Griffith to his death on the highway.

Two of the three he identified, Jon Lester, 17, and Scott Kern, 18, were charged with murder. Jason Ladone, 16, was indicted for attempted murder. Michael Pirone, 17, was charged with manslaughter.

Riley too was charged with murder, but prosecutor Charles Hynes indicated that charges against him would be reduced if he



Militant/Lisa Ahlberg

continued to cooperate.

Riley was released on his own recognition. Kern was denied bail and Lester is already doing time on an unrelated charge. Ladone and those charged with the attempted murder of Sandiford were released on \$50,000 bail. Those facing lesser charges were let out on \$15,000 bail.

All 12 pleaded not guilty.

At the time of the December 20 attack,

the response of city officials was to try for a cover-up. Queens County District Attorney John Santucci began an investigation that was patently designed to go nowhere.

Cedric Sandiford charged that the cops treated him like a criminal, not a victim, and that Santucci's office tried to get him to pick his assailants out of a lineup when his physical condition precluded it.

Santucci's strategy backfired when Sandiford and Grimes, acting on the advice of their lawyers, refused to cooperate with a bad-faith investigation.

Because they stood up for their clients, attorneys Alton Maddox and C. Vernon Mason were subjected to scurrilous attack by Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward, Mayor Edward Koch, and Governor Mario Cuomo.

But as anger in the Black community continued to mount, these officials were forced to retreat. Cuomo, a Democratic presidential hopeful, after rejecting the demand to do so, replaced Santucci with a special state prosecutor.

The heat had become intense. Three thousand antiracists had demonstrated in Howard Beach. Four thousand marched in Manhattan. At one Black community meeting in Brooklyn, 2,000 angry residents turned out.

Responding to the indictments, attorneys Maddox and Mason said they were gratified by the grand jury action. But, Mason emphasized at a February 11 news conference, the indictments were not proof that "the system works."

Rather, he said, "It was you, Black people marching and meeting and protesting all over this city, who provided the fuel for these indictments."

Now continuing protest is needed to insure that those who perpetrated the racist attack are locked behind bars.

Students organize for April antiwar protests

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

"In recent history, while students have been an important part of the actual turnout at national demonstrations, little attention has been given to mobilizing them as a sector."

Matthew Countryman was addressing those remarks to young people gathered at the February 13-14 Northeast Student Conference Against Apartheid and Racism in New York.

Countryman, anti-intervention coordinator for the Democratic Socialists of America, is one of the co-convenors of the recently established student subcommittee of the national steering committee organizing the April 25 antiwar and anti-apartheid march.

The April 25 action in Washington, D.C., has been endorsed by a number of national union presidents, religious figures, and Black activists. A demonstration raising similar demands will draw people from the western states to San Francisco the same day.

"This is a historic coalition. It has the potential to bring hundreds of thousands of people to Washington, D.C., on April 25, but we are behind in organizing and need to start right now," Countryman said.

Members of the student subcommittee plan to tour campuses on the East Coast. Tom Reifer, the other co-convenor of the committee, described the purpose of the tours in a recent interview in the *Young Socialist* newspaper.

"The student subcommittee aims to help start coalitions of students, and establish programs and timelines so that campuses will be inundated with leaflets. Our basic goal is to make sure that everybody knows about the 25th and that there is a lot of momentum on individual campuses to go to it."

Reifer, also a student organizer for the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), said the student committee has prepared a "mobilization packet" for students who want to build the action. He encouraged young people to get a copy of the packet and to call or write him

Continued on Page 13

Why Philippine peace talks collapsed

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON AND SAM MANUEL

MANILA — In an "open letter to the Filipino people," the National Democratic Front (NDF) has rejected the Aquino government's call for an extension of the 60-day cease-fire between the Philippine military and the guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA).

The NDF withdrew from peace talks following the January 22 massacre of unarmed peasants marching to Malacañang palace. The protesters were demanding President Corazon Aquino carry out thoroughgoing land redistribution and other agrarian reform measures.

Maria Serena Diokno, one of the three government negotiators, resigned from her position at the same time. She said she could no longer defend the government's positions.

The government is now seeking to maximize the political advantage it gained through the almost 4-to-1 vote February 2 in favor of the new constitution drafted by Aquino appointees. Many of the "yes" votes came from workers and peasants belonging to mass organizations led by supporters of the NDF and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which support the armed struggle waged by the NPA. These organizations had called for a "no" vote.

In the wake of the plebiscite victory, Aquino released an executive order February 5 that implements some of her promises made to unions last May Day to extend legal rights of trade unions.

And on February 6 the government said it would implement land reform policies. These are based on programs begun among rice and corn farmers under the Marcos dictatorship, ousted by a popular upsurge last year. They also include selling sequestered lands of Marcos cronies to tenants and farm workers.

Agrarian reform minister Heherson Alvarez said, "If in the process of achieving land reform, we pull the rug out from beneath the rebels, so be it."

At the same time, the guerrillas who failed to return to the negotiating table were threatened with military action.

The cease-fire had in fact broken down with the massacre of the peasant demonstrators. By February 10, at least 33 people had been reported killed in clashes between the military and the NPA.

An NDF statement appeared as a full-page advertisement in the Manila daily *Malaya* under the signatures of Saturnino Ocampo, Antonio Zumel, and Rodolpho Salas, key members of the team that negotiated the cease-fire. Salas, a central leader of the CPP, was arrested in Manila last September during the negotiations.

The open letter read in part, "After deep reflection on the conduct of the peace talks, and the implementation of the 60-day preliminary cease-fire agreement, we are convinced that the Aquino government is not serious about negotiating a durable and just peace. . . ."

"Departing from the original premise of the negotiations," the statement said, "the government panel put forth a set of propos-

als for 'amnesty and rehabilitation' that betrayed its ultimate objective of luring the revolutionary forces to exchange their long and principled struggle for a few material benefits for themselves.

"Moreover," the NDF letter noted, "the government panel insisted on limiting the talks to the framework of the 1986 Constitution, a document that essentially preserves the interests of U.S. imperialism

Continued on Page 13

'Brazen disregard of rights' marked trial of 18 in Grenada

BY ERNEST HARSCH

NEW YORK — The Grenada trial that sentenced 14 defendants to death late last year was marked by gross irregularities, Ian Ramsay, the head of the legal defense team, said here February 9.

Speaking at a news conference and at a public meeting later that day at New York University, Ramsay declared that the defendants, who include former deputy prime minister Bernard Coard, had not received a free and fair trial. The proceedings were conducted with "blatant and brazen disregard for the fundamental rights of all Grenadians," he said.

Grenada's courts remain in limbo, outside the provisions of the constitution currently in effect, Ramsay stated. The court that tried the case was constituted on a

temporary basis, for the purpose of this trial alone. This, Ramsay pointed out, enabled the judge and prosecution to make up the rules as they went along and deprive the defendants of even a serious right to appeal.

The court was also subjected to direct U.S. government pressures and inducements. For months following the U.S. invasion of October 1983, the island was occupied by U.S. troops. The two regimes that have been in power since the invasion have both followed Washington's dictates. On top of this, President Reagan, during a visit to Grenada in February 1986, pledged \$5.5 million in "aid to the judicial system."

The trial was set in motion following the U.S. invasion. Eighteen people were charged with ordering or participating in

Continued on Page 4

Meat-packers in Sioux City face new attack

BY MIGUEL ZÁRATE

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. — The winding Missouri River divides two big meat-packing plants. On one side, in Dakota City, Nebraska, is the Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) plant. Across the river in Sioux City, Iowa, sits a John Morrell & Co. plant. The bosses' greed has forced the workers in these two plants into similar situations.

On December 13, IBP locked out members of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local 222.

On February 8 John Morrell made what they called a "final offer" to 800 members of UFCW Local 1142. The meat-packers were told that they had to take an immediate \$1-an-hour wage cut and accept reduced health and insurance benefits. Morrell also demanded that the base wage rate in the plant be reduced from \$8.25 an hour to \$6.25.

There was a large turnout at the February 8 meeting where the contract was discussed. Many union members were accompanied by their spouses and relatives.

The meat-packing bosses count on being able to pit workers in the area against each other. They hope that if both Morrell and IBP have strikes or lockouts at the same time, the workers will scab on each other's struggle. But many Morrell workers have already worked at the IBP plant and the meeting reflected growing understanding that the packinghouse bosses' concessionary demands are similar.

Most workers were outraged at Morrell's threats. "They are just taking money from my family and my kids," a worker said. "We just gave up \$3.22 in our last contract three years ago," an older worker added.

Later union President Ron Derochie made public the vote total. The contract was rejected 601 to 29.

As the meeting proceeded, however, two lines of debate emerged.

Some workers advocated voting down the contract but returning to work. The company's proposals would immediately go into effect and the union members would be working without a contract. But the union could develop an in-plant strategy of noncooperation with management that would show the company that it's in its own interest to bargain in good faith.

An advocate of this approach was John Mancuso, the assistant director of the national UFCW's Packinghouse Division.

The other approach was put forward by a contingent of workers who chanted that a strike was necessary. One man said "meat-packers should be making \$13, \$14, and \$15 an hour, so get with it boys."

Another man yelled into a microphone, "If we take a cut now, in another three years they'll try to take another, and three years after that they'll take yet another until we're down to \$1.95 an hour."

Arguing against a strike, many workers said they'd rather be making \$6.25 an hour than be out on the street with only \$40 a week like the locked-out IBP workers.

The vote to return to work passed by 420 to 207. A majority felt that a strike would lead to a defeat.

"Morrell will bring in scabs, then the National Guard will be here and you just can't win against the National Guard," a worker said. "I just don't think standing on the street with a placard in my hand is going to work in this day and age. There are just too many people out of work," said another.

Many workers seemed to feel the "in-plant" strategy could do more to force Morrell to raise wages. Still others said the union will be in a stronger negotiating position in January 1988 when the contract is up at the Morrell plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Workers at the South Dakota plant went on a three-month strike in 1985. They will be making \$9.75 an hour when their contract expires.

Workers at Morrell's Ark City Packing Co. in Arkansas City, Kansas, have been closely following the negotiations at the Iowa plant. The Ark City workers were forced on strike last summer. After the company resumed production with scabs, the Ark City unionists sent roving pickets to the other Morrell plants.

Workers in Ark City told *Militant* repor-

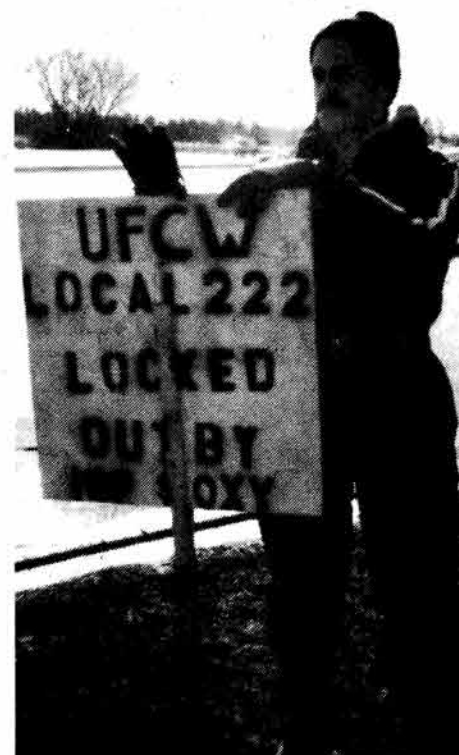
ters in December they hoped to be in a stronger bargaining position early this year because the contract would be up in Sioux City.

Frederico Baldivia did not like the idea of waiting a year without union protection in the plant. "We had a taste of this last week. If you get hurt working without a contract, you have to pay for it yourself." He had hurt his shoulder and then gone to his own doctor who approved his return to work. But the company doctor wouldn't allow him to return and he was fired.

"I worked here when the John Morrell plant was Armour, five years ago," Baldivia said. "I made \$9.35 an hour. Then Armour closed and reopened as Morrell. We made \$7.25 an hour." His voice got angrier, "Now they want us to cut to \$6.25 an hour."

Even with the majority voting to return to work, many questions remain unanswered. How will an in-plant strategy work? What degree of protection will workers have without a contract? What was evident, however, was the determination by all to take some kind of stand against the company.

Miguel Zárate is a member of UFCW Local 271 in Bellevue, Nebraska.



Militant/Diane Shur

Workers picket IBP. Packinghouse bosses at IBP and John Morrell demand big takebacks.

Unionists fight Iowa Beef's lockout

DAKOTA CITY, Neb. — Meat-packers at Iowa Beef Processors' (IBP) plant here have taken two votes on the company's "final offer." In both votes, the members of United Food and Commercial Workers union Local 222 rejected IBP's takeback demands that include a four-year wage freeze.

The first vote was taken in December. IBP responded to the rejection by locking out the meat-packers.

The second vote was held January 25 at the first mass membership meeting since the beginning of the lockout. Talking with workers it was evident that the meeting had lifted their spirits. "I wasn't real sure how much the company's propaganda had influenced us," Michael, an eight-year veteran in the plant, said.

A union officer who coordinates activity in the union headquarters told me the vote was important because the company is banking on wearing the membership down. He said most of the workers had never been in a labor dispute before and that 65 percent of workers had been hired since the union went on strike in 1982.

On the picket line, Pauline, who has worked at IBP for a year and a half, said, "Safety is my biggest concern. When I went to apply for a job, the woman interviewing me asked, 'Do you mind if your hands bleed, swell, or crack?'"

Nebraska is a "right-to-work state." That means workers are not required to join the union to hold a job. But the union says that

80 percent of the 2,500 workers have joined.

Matt, a young worker, said he joined because the union protects workers while management harasses them. "I work with five people, but for some reason if something goes wrong, my supervisor always blames me. Once I got to work at 10 minutes to six and they had me in the office by six," he said.

During the 1982 strike, recent immigrants from Vietnam and Laos were brought into the plant as scabs. This time around many are with the union. Almost a third of those reporting for picket duty the day this reporter was there were Asians. Everyone I talked to said their integration

into the union was a step forward.

The union members say they have more community support than during the previous strike. But a big questions remains. Will the company try to reopen the plant with scabs?

The locked-out workers are beginning to receive solidarity. Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 2471 in Council Bluffs, Iowa, recently invited the meat-packers to speak there. Barbara Collette and Tony Dutrow from the Austin United Support Group, which organizes support activities for the workers fighting to get their jobs back at the Austin, Minnesota, Hormel plant, also paid a recent solidarity visit to Dakota City. — M.Z.

Hormel support group sets rally

AUSTIN, Minn. — Supporters of the Hormel meat-packers are gearing up for a "Turn up the Heat on Hormel Rally" to be held here March 14.

The rally will be part of a full day's activities sponsored by the Austin United Support Group that will also include a parade and entertainment.

Over 800 meat-packers who went on strike at Hormel's flagship plant in Austin 1985 are fighting to get their jobs back.

The company refused to allow the meat-packers to return to work last September

under the terms of the contract settlement it forced through in Austin.

In recent months, the Hormel meat-packers and their supporters have continued touring the country, sharing their experiences with other unionists.

The Support Group has been organizing solidarity efforts for the meat-packers' struggle since 1984.

A mailing urging supporters to attend the March 14 events has been sent to unionists across the country. Rally speakers and the full schedule for the day's activities will be announced soon.

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New York meeting covers up truth about Grenada

Blocks united effort to halt hangings

BY STEVE CLARK

NEW YORK — Masquerading as the Ad-Hoc Committee for a Fair Trial in Grenada, political supporters of Grenada's former deputy prime minister Bernard Coard held a meeting here February 9 to try to exonerate him from responsibility for destruction of the Grenada revolution in October 1983.

Coard and 13 of his followers were convicted of murder and sentenced to death by a Grenadian court in December 1986. Three other defendants were convicted of manslaughter and given long sentences.

These proceedings did not and could not serve the needs of justice. Instead, the trial served the propaganda needs of U.S. and British imperialism and of the servile neo-colonial regime installed in Grenada following Washington's invasion in October 1983.

The entire proceedings — from the defendants' prison conditions to the trial itself — violated the most elementary rights and constitutional protections won by the oppressed over centuries of struggle.

If the government of Grenada gets away with executing the 14 defendants, then the shadow of the hangman will be cast more ominously than ever over working people and political activists throughout the Caribbean.

In January an organization calling itself the Ad-Hoc Committee for a Fair Trial in Grenada announced a public meeting for February 9 at New York University on "The Grenada Trial: Was It Free or Fair?"

Scheduled speakers were Ian Ramsay, lead attorney for the defendants; Richard Hart, a former attorney general of Grenada under the People's Revolutionary Government; Ramsey Clark, a New York lawyer and former U.S. attorney general; Doris Kitson, a free-lance journalist who covered much of the trial in Grenada; and Richard Hoyen, president of the Jamaica Democratic Association.

More than 150 people turned out for the meeting. Contrary to the advance publicity, however, this was not a meeting to mobilize a broad, united opposition to the sham trial of Coard and the other defendants.

It was instead a declaration of war upon the truth.

It was a declaration of war on the political legacy of Maurice Bishop.

And it was a declaration of war on Cuban President Fidel Castro's meticulous efforts to present the political truth about Coard and his faction to the peoples of the Americas and the world.

Background to trial

Coard and the other defendants were charged with the Oct. 19, 1983, murders of Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other leaders of the People's Revolutionary Government and New Jewel Movement.

These murders and other political crimes during the week before and after October 19 destroyed the four and a half year old Grenada revolution and left the country defenseless before U.S. imperialism, which invaded the island October 25.

Many democrats, anti-imperialist fighters, and communists in the Caribbean and elsewhere — including the Cuban government and Communist Party — hold Coard and his supporters morally and politically responsible for the October 1983 murders and their consequences. (For an account of these events, see my introduction to *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, Pathfinder Press, New York, 1983. For the full text of the Cuban government and party statements, see the appendices to the same book.)

As a result of these acts, Fidel Castro pointed out in a 1985 interview, "Coard and his group served the United States, on a silver platter, ideal conditions for the invasion of Grenada. Naturally, they were not going to be met with the people's resis-

tance, for the simple reason that the people were outraged, traumatized by the attitude of this group that had fired upon the people and assassinated Bishop."

For this reason, the new government established following Coard's October 1983 coup "could not have endured," Castro said. "We wouldn't have offered any support to that government after it murdered Bishop and fired on the people."

"After we had assumed that attitude, it would have been difficult for any other socialist or progressive country to support that group, because Bishop actually had great authority and great international prestige. . . .

"The whole world thought highly of Bishop," Castro continued; "that Pol Pot-type group that murdered him would have never been forgiven." (*Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*, by Jeffrey M. Elliot and Mervyn M. Dymally, Pathfinder Press, New York, 1986, pp. 143-160.)

Nonetheless, Coard and his group were not only forgiven but their political course has been publicly justified by a handful of political currents in the Caribbean, in the United States, and elsewhere. Most aggressive among these have been some prominent leaders of the Workers Party of Jamaica; the *Friends for Jamaica Caribbean Newsletter* in the United States; and editors of the British daily *Morning Star*, published by a wing of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

Falsifying the stakes

At the February 9 meeting, only defense attorney Ian Ramsay focused his remarks on what most in the audience had come to hear about and support. Ramsay explained the stakes posed by the trial and its outcome for supporters of national sovereignty in the Caribbean and of constitutional protections against arbitrary government actions. (See accompanying article.)

The other speakers, to the contrary, confused and falsified what is at stake.

After relating a few facts about the court proceedings, for example, Richard Hart concluded his speech by asserting the purpose of the trial was "to physically eliminate . . . the only people capable of rallying the Grenadian people once more" to an anti-imperialist course. "That, I think, sums up the essence of what the trial was all about."

What does this have to do with mobilizing opposition to the unjust trial and barbaric sentences in Grenada? Very simply, Hart sets up as a precondition for any defense effort the acceptance of Coard's group as the political vanguard of Grenadian working people.

Yet the truth is that Coard has been so discredited by his counterrevolutionary actions that he could never again regain the political confidence of the Grenadian people. He and his gang are despised by the Grenadian people for their deeds, and rightly so.

This fact is acknowledged by a growing majority of democrats, anti-imperialist fighters, and communists throughout the Americas. More and more have come to reject apologies for Stalinist practices, including lies and bloody methods, of the type carried out by the Coard gang.

Hart and his colleagues claim to be building a civil liberties defense campaign. But they are attempting to erect it on a foundation of lies.

In doing so, they actually create obstacles to mobilizing a broad, united opposition to the lynch-mob "justice" of Washington, London, and its fawning client regime in St. George's, Grenada.

'Reminds me of Nelson Mandela'

Ramsey Clark, the most prominent U.S. individual associated with the Ad-Hoc Committee for a Fair Trial in Grenada,



Maurice Bishop left revolutionary political legacy for workers and farmers in Grenada and throughout the Caribbean.

used his speech to portray Bernard Coard as a world political figure of heroic proportions.

"You look at that man," Clark told the audience, "and you say, 'My God, what grace and beauty.'"

Bernard Coard, according to Clark, is an "incredible" person who "reminds me of Nelson Mandela."

(At the close of the meeting, heated arguments raged in the auditorium and hallways, as many participants expressed outrage at this contemptible equating of Coard with the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress.)

The Grenada revolution *did* produce one figure whom fighters against oppression and exploitation around the world look to as comparable in political stature to Mandela. That leader was Maurice Bishop, who was murdered in cold blood on Oct. 19, 1983.

Fidel Castro is another world leader justly looked to by the world's toilers on the basis of both his words and deeds. Castro, too, has compared Bernard Coard to a well-known figure in world politics — Pol Pot.

Unlike Ramsey Clark's comparison, however, Castro's assessment is objectively based on the *actions* of Bernard Coard and their political *consequences* for workers and farmers throughout the Caribbean.

And what about Maurice Bishop?

Clark's adulation of Bernard Coard stands in stark contrast to his treatment of Maurice Bishop, who barely rated a passing mention in Clark's talk.

Bishop figured somewhat more prominently, however, in a presentation on Clark's behalf by his legal assistant, Weldon Brewer, during a meeting at the Brecht Forum here the previous week.

At that meeting, Brewer implied that Bishop and his supporters bore primary responsibility for the political events that culminated in the October 19 massacre and subsequent U.S. invasion.

According to Brewer, it was "a mistake for Maurice Bishop to resist so hard" the so-called joint leadership proposal (imposed by Coard's supporters in September and October 1983 as cover for ousting Bishop from the leadership — S.C.).

Brewer denied Bishop had been placed under house arrest on October 12 after requesting a meeting of the Central Committee to reconsider the "joint leadership" proposal.

Bishop had simply been placed under "protective custody" for his own safety, Brewer said! Brewer did not explain why this "protection" had to be carried out against Bishop's will; why his phone lines were cut off; why he was denied access to the Grenadian people; or why he was not allowed visitors of his choice.

What's more, according to Brewer, Bishop also erred in allowing himself to be released from this "protective custody" by

part of the crowd of 30,000 Grenadians who poured into the streets on October 19 demanding the liberation of their most trusted political leader.

As it turns out, Brewer claimed, "Those on the other side [Coard and his supporters] were just about to relent on the morning of October 19. 'Well, we better let Maurice have his way,' they were saying. Maurice wasn't going to budge."

Apparently if Bishop had been more willing "to budge," then the murderous events of October 19 might never have happened.

Coard's trial statement

Where did Brewer's "facts" come from? They are lifted lock, stock, and barrel from a transcript of Bernard Coard's statement presented at the trial in August 1986.

This 107-page political document is among the main pieces of material promoted by the misnamed Ad-Hoc Committee for a Fair Trial in Grenada. At the February 9 meeting, it was recommended to the audience by the opening speaker, Doris Kitson, and once again by the chair at the close of the event.

Of course, there can be no objection to people reading for themselves the political views and account of events as told by Bernard Coard in his own words. I have studied this document, and I urge others to do so as well.

In fact, to weigh for themselves the cogency of Ramsey Clark's character judgment, readers may wish to compare Coard's trial statement with Nelson Mandela's speech from the dock at his 1964 trial in the apartheid courts, entitled "I Am

Continued on next page

New International

next issue coming soon

The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop

by Steve Clark

A response to recent slanders of Maurice Bishop and of his political contributions to the revolutionary struggle in Grenada and throughout the Caribbean and Central America.

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With this issue of the *Militant* we are initiating a Building the April 25 Action column. It will contain reports on the activities of activists preparing for the national demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

The column will also be a place where unionists, students, and solidarity and anti-apartheid activists can communicate with each other and exchange ideas on building the actions. We encourage our readers to let us know how April 25 is building in your area.

Hundreds attend anti-apartheid conference in D.C.

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Anti-apartheid activists from around the country gathered here January 29-31 at the first annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Symposium on Southern Africa.

The symposium was titled: "Total Strategy: Apartheid's Re-

gional War." Conference participants, the majority of whom were Black, received a detailed view of the apartheid regime's war against the people of southern Africa.

An evening rally at Shiloh Baptist Church was attended by well over 700 people. Featured speakers were Jesse Jackson, Itumeleng Mokate representing the African National Congress, and Helmut Angula, permanent observer to the United Nations for the South West Africa People's Organisation.

David Reed, executive director of the Coalition for a New Foreign Policy and a leader of the April 25 Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa, also spoke. He drew the connections between U.S. intervention in Central America and U.S. support to the apartheid regime and urged everyone to attend the April 25 actions in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

Danu Smith, executive director of the Washington Office on Africa, chaired the evening rally. Pointing to the recent lynching of a Black man in Howard Beach,

New York, and the racist attack on a civil rights march in Forsyth County, Georgia, Smith drew the parallel between the fight against apartheid and the fight against racism in the United States.

Workshops and panels on the following two days attracted 250 participants. The conference concluded with a panel discussion on strategy for the anti-apartheid movement in the United States.

Upstate N.Y. labor council backs April 25

BY SAM CHETTA AND BEN FIERING

NEW PALTZ, N. Y. — Broad forces are coming together in New York's Mid-Hudson Valley to build the April 25 march on Washington.

Many solidarity organizations have endorsed the demonstration. It was also endorsed by the Upper Hudson Valley Central Labor

Council at its January 26 meeting. Twenty-two unions are affiliated to the council, and those attending the meeting took leaflets to circulate to their membership.

Activists throughout the region are involved in a range of activities that will help build April 25. The Central American Solidarity Coalition is planning an action protesting the Reagan administration's attempt to get \$40 million released to the Nicaraguan contras. The coalition will be holding a week of activities on Central America March 21-29. In addition, a teach-in will be held on Central America at the State University of New York campus in New Paltz.

* The Nicaragua Network, the American Committee on Africa, and the United States Student Association are organizing a joint speaking tour of the area March 30-April 13. The tour will encourage people to "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua."

Activists here are confident we can fill six to 10 buses for the

April 25 demonstration.

Boston activists protest contra funding

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — Some 150 activists chanted, marched, and picketed here demanding Congress rescind aid to the Nicaraguan contras. The action was timed to coincide with President Reagan's State of the Union address, where he vowed to continue funding the CIA-trained mercenaries.

The January 28 event was sponsored by more than two dozen Central America, solidarity, peace, religious, and political organizations.

A broadly sponsored letter has gone out urging people to attend the founding meeting of the Boston Area April 25 coalition on February 12. Its signers included a number of prominent unionists in the state.

N.Y. meeting covers up truth about Grenada

Continued from previous page

Prepared to Die." (Mandela's statement can be found in *The Struggle Is My Life*, by Nelson Mandela, Pathfinder Press, New York, 1986. Coard's statement can be ordered by sending \$6 plus \$1 for postage and handling to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.)

Let's take a quick look at a few aspects of Coard's statement. (I will assess it at greater length in an article entitled "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop," to be published next month in the magazine *New Internationalist*.)

Consider, for example, what Ramsey Clark's man "of grace and beauty" has to say about the 30,000 Grenadian working people who turned out on October 19 to free Bishop from house arrest (or, as Coard would have it, from protective custody).

"We have to understand the dynamics of a crowd, especially a huge crowd, especially one being whipped up and agitated by certain elements. . . .

"People one to one can be reasoned with. It's different with a large crowd. There is a 'herd psychology.'"

"It's very important to understand crowd psychology if we are really to understand October 19, 1983."

A genuine mass leader — such as Nelson Mandela or Maurice Bishop — could never utter such words.

Agent-baiting

Coard's entire account of the events of October 19 rides on his completely unsubstantiated slander that three of Maurice Bishop's closest aides were actually CIA agents: Don Rojas, his press secretary; Shahiba Strong, his chief protocol officer; and Cletus St. Paul, his chief security officer.

Coard does not present even one concrete fact to back up this scurrilous charge against these three individuals, and against Maurice Bishop's political judgement in trusting and closely collaborating with them. He simply repeatedly asserts it.

That vile practice has acquired a name through decades of experience in movements of the oppressed and exploited: *agent-baiting*. And it has also acquired an odor.

In November 1986, Don Rojas circulated an open letter answering Coard's smears. It was widely published in North America and the Caribbean. (Available from the *Militant* for \$0.75.)

In January, Coard's slander campaign against Rojas was decisively repudiated by the broad support won for his five-city U.S. tour, speaking on behalf of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America — a coalition of more than 30 political organizations from some 20 Caribbean Basin countries, launched at a conference in Havana, Cuba, in June 1984.

Rojas currently lives in Havana, and rep-

resents Grenada's Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement on the 10-party steering committee of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations. He is also the secretary for the Caribbean and Central America of the International Organization of Journalists.

Showing their contempt for Coard's slanders, a broad range of prominent individuals and organizations in the United States sponsored the Rojas tour. These included the affiliates of the Grenada Foundation in New York, the San Francisco Bay Area, Boston, and Washington, D.C.; a broad range of other Caribbean and Central American solidarity committees in these cities; the Puerto Rican Socialist Party; the Socialist Bloc and Communist Party of the Dominican Republic; the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front; Gus Newport, the former mayor of Berkeley, California; the Association of Concerned Guyanese — USA; the U.S. Peace Council; *Haiti Progrès*; several members of the Congressional Black Caucus; Jamaica Democratic Association; the California Communist Party; SANE; numerous anti-apartheid groups; Line of March; the Socialist Workers Party; the National Rainbow Coalition; the National Alliance of Third World Journalists; and scores of others.

Despite this overwhelming repudiation of Coard's smears, the Ad-Hoc Committee for a Fair Trial in Grenada continues to promote this document without a single word to distance itself from these charges against Rojas or the other victims of character assassination.

And Ramsey Clark and his associates still lend their authority to Coard's charges by parroting them before audiences



Ramsey Clark says Bernard Coard reminds him of Nelson Mandela.

throughout the United States and elsewhere.

Who shed tears?

At the February 9 meeting, for example, Clark repeated a claim from Coard's statement that people the world over, including many right there in the audience, know to be an outright lie.

"Nobody shed more tears over the death of Maurice Bishop," Clark said, "than the people on death row, and how cruel that they should be accused of it."

What a cynical distortion of the truth!

Too many people know that Coard and the other defendants were central leaders of the ruling Revolutionary Military Council that broadcast a statement over Radio Free

Grenada just hours after the October 19 murders slandering Maurice Bishop. That statement, read by Gen. Hudson Austin (one of the defendants), alleged that Bishop "had declared his intention to wipe out the entire leadership of the party and the army" and "had linked up — openly — with counterrevolutionaries in order to do so."

Too many people know that this same RMC issued a public statement October 20, signed by two of the current defendants (Liam James and Chris Stroude), stating, "Maurice Bishop and his petty bourgeois and bourgeois friends . . . had deserted the working class and working people of Grenada."

Too many people know that the RMC, during its week as Grenada's government, did not once denounce the murders of Bishop and other Grenadian patriots, nor order the arrest of a single person in connection with these crimes.

Those who know these facts can and must be mobilized to vigorously oppose the legal lynching of Coard and his followers by an imperialist-imposed regime.

But they cannot and will not condone the Big Lie that these defendants "shed tears" over the murder of Maurice Bishop.

And they cannot and will not lend their names and efforts to a committee whose official spokespeople peddle such falsifications from its platforms.

Those democrats, anti-imperialist fighters, and communists who have a stake in the truth, and who want to absorb those lessons for future struggles, are also the ones who can best recognize and explain the stakes in building a nonpartisan, united effort to protest the undemocratic, racist, and colonial-style "justice" in Grenada.

'Brazen disregard for rights' marks Grenada trial

Continued from front page

the Oct. 19, 1983, murders of Maurice Bishop and other leaders of the Grenada revolution. Coard and 16 other defendants were found guilty, while one was freed. On Dec. 4, 1986, 14 of them (including Coard) were sentenced to hang and three drew prison terms of up to 45 years.

Besides the court's lack of any constitutional protections, the proceedings were characterized by cruel treatment.

The guards, Ramsay said, "not only beat the prisoners before the trial, they beat them up during the trial." This was part of a pattern of brutalities in Grenada, in which the U.S.-trained police have arbitrarily beaten and murdered a number of youths.

When the defendants vocally protested their treatment, they were cited for contempt. They and their lawyers were expelled from the courtroom for most of the trial.

This meant that the defense could not

challenge prospective jurors. The absence of the defendants and their lawyers from the courtroom also meant that there was no cross-examination of prosecution witnesses and no evidence, documents, or witnesses for the defense.

"What went on was a charade, a masquerade," Ramsay said. "You can't have a fair trial if both sides aren't heard."

Toward the end of the trial, when the defendants were allowed to give statements to the court, they were not permitted to see the notes of the testimony. This made it impossible for them to respond to the specific evidence presented by the prosecution.

The sentencing to death of 14 defendants in one trial is unprecedented in the Caribbean in this century, Ramsay said. The sentences, he continued, have "stunned and shocked friends and enemies of the defendants alike." If carried out, the executions "would be nothing less than judicial murder," Ramsay declared.

The ultimate victims would be the people of Grenada, who would get a clear message not to exercise their political rights.

The case has been appealed to the local Court of Appeals, which is the defendants' final recourse under Grenada's current court system.

The defense lawyers, however, have filed a motion that they should also have a right to appeal to the Privy Council in London, given the severity of the sentences. The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States has agreed to bring Grenada's judiciary into the OECS court system, which includes such an avenue of appeal. But so far Grenada's courts remain outside the OECS.

Ramsay urged that in light of the violations of democratic rights conducted by the U.S.-imposed court in Grenada, "concerned Americans" should press "for a constitutional and fair trial for the defendants. That is what we ask and all we ask."

'Eyes on the Prize' — powerful documentary

Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-65. Executive producer, Henry Hampton for Blackside, Inc. Six one-hour films.

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ
I know one thing we did right
Was the day we started to fight.
Keep your eyes on the prize,
Hold on, hold on.

— From a civil rights song

Howard Beach, New York. Forsyth County, Georgia. Racist attacks and antiracist counter-mobilizations are very much in

TELEVISION REVIEW

the news today. One result is renewed interest in the legacy and lessons of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

A lot can be learned from *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years*, a powerful documentary currently being shown on Public Broadcasting Service television. The six-part series consists primarily of original film footage of many of the major episodes in the struggle for civil rights, coupled with recent interviews with participants of the time. Each program is narrated by Julian Bond, a prominent civil rights activist and longtime Georgia state legislator.

Those who lived through the events depicted in the film will remember things they've forgotten. Those who came after this decisive era in U.S. history can see it firsthand in a way that has not been possible before. Everyone who watches one or more of the segments will find their thinking provoked. This series is most definitely a case of a picture that is worth a thousand words.

The mass civil rights movement was a distinct chapter in the ongoing fight for Black equality. It was a series of battles for a specific goal — the overthrow of Jim

Crow, the system of legal segregation enforced by governmental power in the South.

The film begins with the 1955 murder of Emmett Till. Till, a Black 14-year-old, was murdered and his body mutilated by racist thugs in Money, Mississippi. Till's "crime"? As a young Black visiting from Chicago he didn't know he couldn't say "Bye, baby" to a white woman. The murderers were brought to trial in a kangaroo court and released on the grounds that the body could not be identified as Till's.

From Mississippi courtroom to Selma

Nevertheless, through the efforts of Till's mother, his uncle Moses Wright who identified the murderers in the Mississippi courtroom, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and others, the Emmett Till case became an international issue.

Eyes on the Prize takes the viewer from that Mississippi courtroom to the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* that ruled segregated schools illegal; the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott; the fight to desegregate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas; the battle of Birmingham, Alabama; the racist riot that tried to stop desegregation at Ole Miss; the struggle in Albany, Georgia; the Freedom Rides; the march from Selma to Montgomery; and many other historic milestones in the fight against Jim Crow.

The film also touches on key events inside the civil rights movement such as the formation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the efforts to organize the 1963 March on Washington (including the last minute moves that prevented SNCC leader John Lewis from presenting his original — more militant — speech), debates over strategy in Albany, and others.

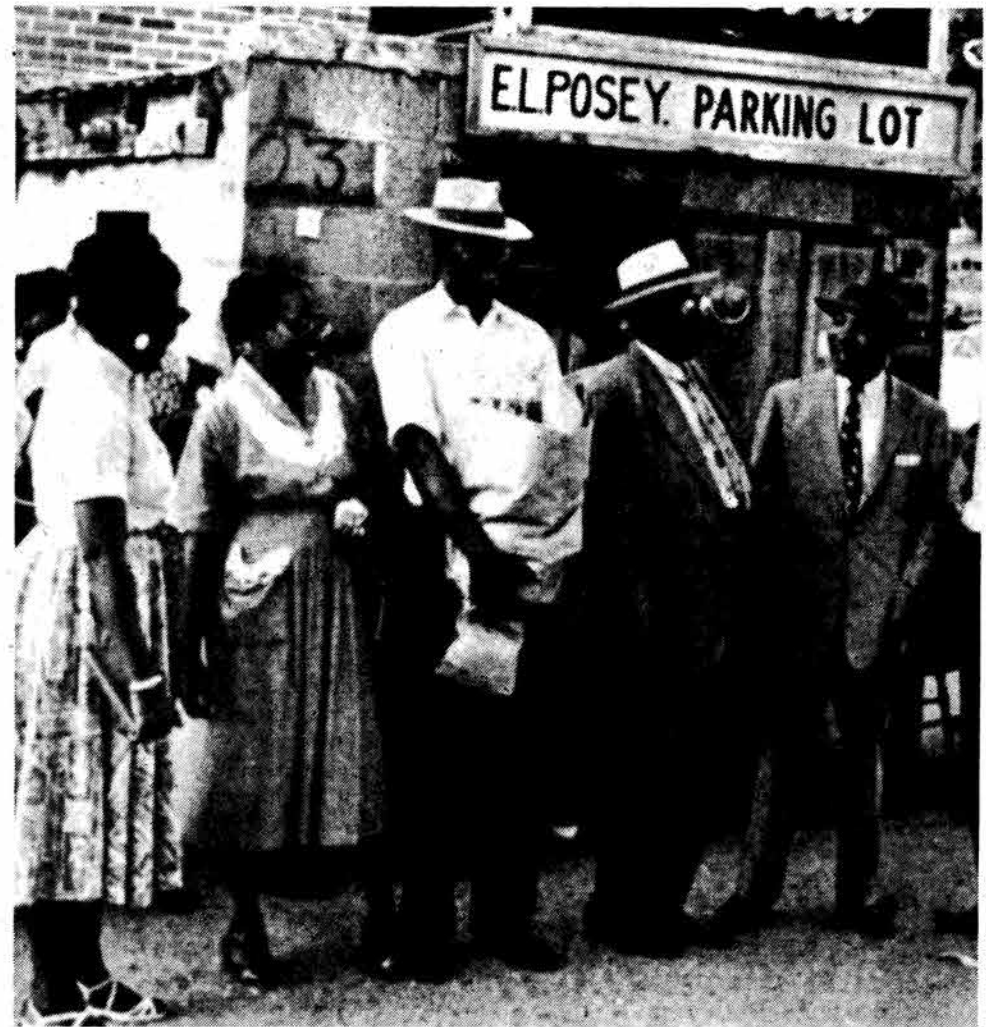
The film introduces the viewer to many of those who emerged as important figures in these events. Rosa Parks, E.D. Nixon, Diane Nash, Medgar Evers, James Meredith, Fannie Lou Hamer, Fred Shuttlesworth, Jim Peck, and many others, as well as those more well known such as Martin Luther King, Jr.

The viewer also meets many of the racist leaders who tried unsuccessfully to block the course of history. Alabama Gov. George Wallace, Arkansas Gov. Orville Faubus, Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett, Selma Sheriff Jim Clark, Albany Sheriff Laurie Pritchett, and Birmingham's "Bull" Connor.

Mass action

Most importantly, the series depicts the power of the mass action of Black working people, students, and the many whites inspired to join in the struggle.

Eyes on the Prize captures the mass mobilizations that were the heart of the civil rights movement. It demonstrates



Members of Montgomery Improvement Association waiting for rides during Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott. Martin Luther King at right.

how civil disobedience was often used in this framework. One can see how the political axis of the sit-ins and similar activity was aimed at precipitating a confrontation with local authorities enforcing Jim Crow laws, in order to demand that federal law be enforced. As King explained in his first speech in Montgomery, "If we are wrong, the Constitution of the United States is wrong."

The movement had few easy victories. Each battle involved weeks and months of organizing, preparation, and action. Often the movement faced brutal racist violence and terror. Much of this was at the hands of police and Southern state troopers. Other acts were committed by the Ku Klux Klan and racist hooligans of their ilk encouraged by the public pronouncements of politicians such as Wallace, who declared in 1963, "I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!"

It is impossible to forget images such as the bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Church and the deaths of Black children inside, the murder of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman during Mississippi's Freedom Summer of 1964, the assassination of NAACP leader Medgar Evers, the brutal assaults on the student

sit-ins, freedom riders, marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, and so many others depicted in the film.

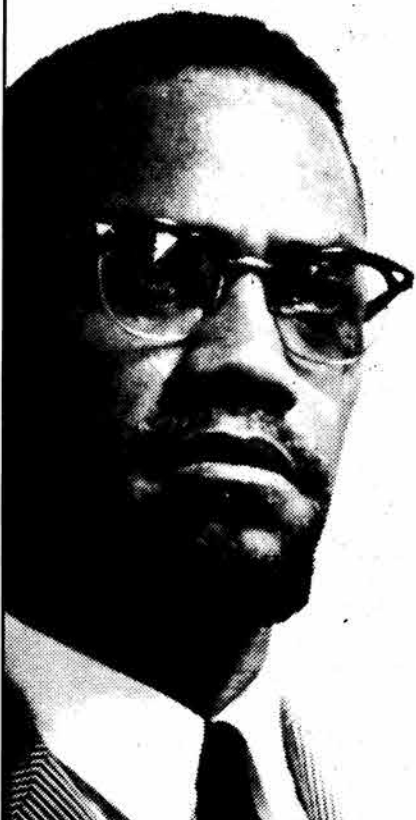
Jim Crow was dismantled in part because the civil rights movement brought enough political pressure to bear to force the federal government to intervene and enforce desegregation. But *Eyes on the Prize* also shows how presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson sought to temporize with Southern officials before enforcing the law.

Tapes of the telephone conversations between John Kennedy and Gov. Ross Barnett during the bloody riot at Ole Miss are especially powerful in this regard.

In an interview with the *New York Times*, *Eyes on the Prize* executive producer Henry Hampton explained that corporations such as Xerox, IBM, General Electric, and Hallmark, which have often underwritten the expenses of important television productions, turned down requests to fund this one. "A lot of companies said, why do you want to dig all that stuff up," according to Hampton.

Watch the series. You'll see why they didn't want this history dug up. And you'll be glad Hampton and his associates did it anyway.

By Malcolm X



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New evidence of cover-up in Bumpurs killing

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — Despite an unaggressive prosecution, the manslaughter trial of the cop who killed Eleanor Bumpurs is producing further evidence of police criminality and cover-up in her death.

Bumpurs, a 66-year-old Black woman, was gunned down by police officer Stephen Sullivan on Oct. 29, 1984. Sullivan was one of four policemen who, along with Housing Authority cops and social workers, sought to evict Bumpurs from her Bronx apartment. Bumpurs was four months behind on her rent, and housing authorities had refused to accept partial payments from her relatives.

The cops were armed with shields, gas masks, a five-foot restraining bar, and 12-gauge pump-action shotguns.

Bumpurs did not open her apartment door when asked to do so, so the cops removed the lock and broke in. Sullivan fired two shots, killing Bumpurs. He claims that he fired after Bumpurs slashed at another officer with a knife.

Initially, cops and city officials tried to cover up the fact that Bumpurs had been shot twice. According to the Feb. 1, 1985, *New York Times*, "the Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Elliot M. Gross, had or-

dered an autopsy report altered to allow the possibility that Mrs. Bumpurs had been struck by only one blast."

When he testified at his trial in the State Supreme Court in the Bronx on Feb. 3, 1987, Sullivan admitted having fired two shots. He said he thought he had missed the first time, and that Bumpurs was still holding the knife.

But Dr. Harold Osborn of New York's Lincoln Hospital had testified the day before that Sullivan's first shot "tore off" Bumpurs's right hand, in which police say she brandished the knife. Osborn said that two fingers were severed, and two others and the palm badly damaged.

"It was anatomically impossible for this hand to hold this knife," he said.

The *New York Times* reporter covering the trial noted that even the knife, presented as an exhibit, had been shattered.

Housing Authority cops have testified that the second shot was fired immediately after the first — implying that Sullivan could not have known what the first shot had done to Bumpurs' hand.

But Victor Garcia, a neighbor who was across the hall when Bumpurs was killed, testified that three or four seconds elapsed between the two shots. Testimony at the

hearing that led to Sullivan's indictment showed that enough time had elapsed for Sullivan to know that Bumpurs was wounded and disarmed.

Sullivan himself contradicted testimony that he fired again immediately, by testifying that he gave several warnings to Bumpurs after firing the first shot.

Other witnesses have reported no warnings before the second shot.

The defense has also relied on Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward's assertion soon after the killing that Sullivan was entitled to kill Bumpurs under the police guidelines on the use of deadly force that existed at the time.

Although the prosecution claims to be seeking a conviction, many of the witnesses it called have tried to bolster Sullivan's defense.

From the beginning of the trial, which opened January 12, Mary Bumpurs, the victim's daughter, voiced dissatisfaction with the way the prosecution was handling the case. She urged appointment of a special prosecutor.

"This cop's not really on trial here," declared a representative of the Eleanor Bumpurs Justice Committee. "They're just going through the motions."

Seattle: 'We aim to strengthen plant-gate sales'

BY MICHELLE FIELDS
AND MATT HERRESHOFF

SEATTLE — *Militant* supporters here are stepping up efforts to sell to workers at plant gates. We

We decided that our main goal should be to sell at plants where *Militant* supporters work. Seattle Steel, Kenworth, and Boeing-Renton Benaroya are three such

Militant.

We've sold at Kenworth the last two weeks. The plant is right off a busy thoroughfare, but workers have stopped to buy the paper each time we have sold. One made a point to walk back from the parking lot to get a *Militant*.

We have yet to establish a regular team at Renton Benaroya.

We decided to sell at two meat-distribution plants organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). In the last month, we've sold twice at the Hormel plant in Renton. The sales there have helped us learn a little more about the plant and the work force.

Three times in the last month, we've sold at rail yards. Seattle is

a major transportation center and the railroads are a major industry here.

At one recent Amtrak sale, two workers bought the *Militant*. As the sales team left, they spotted a group of rail workers discussing the *Militant's* coverage of the recent train crash near Baltimore.

We also maintain regular sales at Boeing's Plant Two, one of the largest plants in Seattle, where the *Militant* has had a presence for many years.

We decided to sell — at least occasionally — at the Todd shipyard. Shipyard workers in the Puget Sound are facing heavy employer attack. Workers at the Lockheed shipyard have been

locked out by the bosses in a union-busting move. And workers at Todd are working under a takeback contract implemented by the employer but never ratified by the union.

To accomplish these plant-gate sales, it's become clear that we need to get maximum participation of *Militant* supporters. So far, this has been uneven. A few weeks ago, half of the paper's regular distributors sold at plant gates. Last week, two-thirds went out.

We aim to organize weekly discussions where *Militant* supporters can compare notes on plant-gate sales experiences. We've begun to keep detailed records on what plants we sell at and what response we receive.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

aim to strengthen plant-gate sales in order to put us in touch with more working people in the Seattle area.

We first established some priorities on where to sell. Until recently, we had focused our sales at Boeing's Seattle-area aerospace plants.

plants. We felt this could get the *Militant* into the hands of more of our coworkers, and boost the kinds of discussion we have on the job and in our unions.

We've sold at Seattle Steel three of the past four weeks, selling two papers. Several workers have stopped to chat with us about the

Report from business manager on renewal drive

BY JIM WHITE

I didn't think I would be surprised by success after going through the fall drive that won 11,000 new readers for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. But when 139 subscription renewals to the *Militant* and seven to *PM* came in this week, I was amazed. This brought the total for *Militant* renewals so far to 814.

We have been getting a steady 50 or so renewals every week for the last three months, and the previous high was 80. This week's total is greater than any two previous weeks. And I think the reason for the acceleration is simple. The same kind of nationwide team effort that won many of these readers in the first place is paying off again.

Ninety-five of the *Militant* renewals are from first-time subscribers. Half of them came in on notices sent out by the business office. The other half came in on subscription blanks from our supporters around the country who have been calling and visiting people whose subscriptions are expiring.

As a result, the renewals from new subscribers were twice as high this week as they had been in any previous week, and they outnumbered other renewals two to one.

We also got the first double renewals this week. Three readers who had renewed for 12 weeks early in the campaign decided to stay on longer. Two of them bought one-year subs, the other wanted six months.

With the increase in subscriptions, comments about the paper — pro and con — also mount.

On the negative side, we got a particularly sharp response from a former reader in Iowa: "I find that your rag is biased, bogus propaganda. Please go to hell." Although the present cold snap in New York makes any place warmer inviting, other comments make it worth staying.

A subscriber in Seattle who donated \$10 with her one-year renewal sent this one-

line endorsement: "Thank you for the unbiased perspective I get on current events."

The *Militant's* perspective was the biggest theme of the comments we received this week. From Sacramento: "The views of your paper are just as extreme as some United States politicians, only yours are in the other direction!" This was ably answered in an unusual way by a reader in Maryland. "As a military officer, I am bombarded daily by the propaganda of the right-wing reactionary U.S. government. The *Militant* represents a much needed per-

spective with respect to news and information about liberation struggles in the world."

We do not expect that reaction from very many military officers, but thousands of workers, students, and activists are sure to feel that way. Whether they have already taken out a trial subscription or not, a continuing effort by all our supporters to win readers will work. That's been proven.

Jim White is the *Militant* business manager.

No justice for victims of Bhopal disaster

BY BALAJI

BHOPAL, India — Two years after the Union Carbide Corp.'s act of toxic genocide here, justice appears to be as remote as ever for the people of Bhopal's slums.

On Dec. 3, 1984, a deadly gas escaped from Carbide's chemical pesticide plant in Bhopal, claiming the lives of more than 2,300 people and injuring some 200,000 more.

The insanity and inhumanity of poisoning air and water in the merciless quest for profit has been shown to the entire world. But Carbide keeps on trying to extricate itself from responsibility by legal maneuver-

ing.

Meanwhile, the Indian government appears powerless to provide even basic medical treatment for the afflicted, and the victims are close to despair. On a wall here is scrawled the words: "Allah, we petition you, send no one from the other land — they only destroy us."

The people of the slums echo this sentiment. Shankar Lal said, "I used to work at the incinerator at Carbide, earning 1,200 rupees [approximately \$93] a month. After being laid off, I was unemployed for a year and now earn only Rs 400. I have to go to the hospital often and then I do not work and have to go without pay."

Barjor Singh, a blacksmith, said, "At the time of the gas, I was at home, then all of a sudden it hit us. Now my hands and legs have no life in them. I have no property. What I get is what I beat out of iron."

The young were most affected. Listen to Gauri Shankar, age 23: "I have breathing trouble all the time. Before the gas I had tools and was going to set up my own workshop. But after the gas, I had to sell some and pawn the rest for medicine. ... Carbide is a mass murderer."

Pradeep, age 12, added, "It is Carbide's fault that the gas escaped. All the big, big officers at Carbide should be punished. They should be hung."

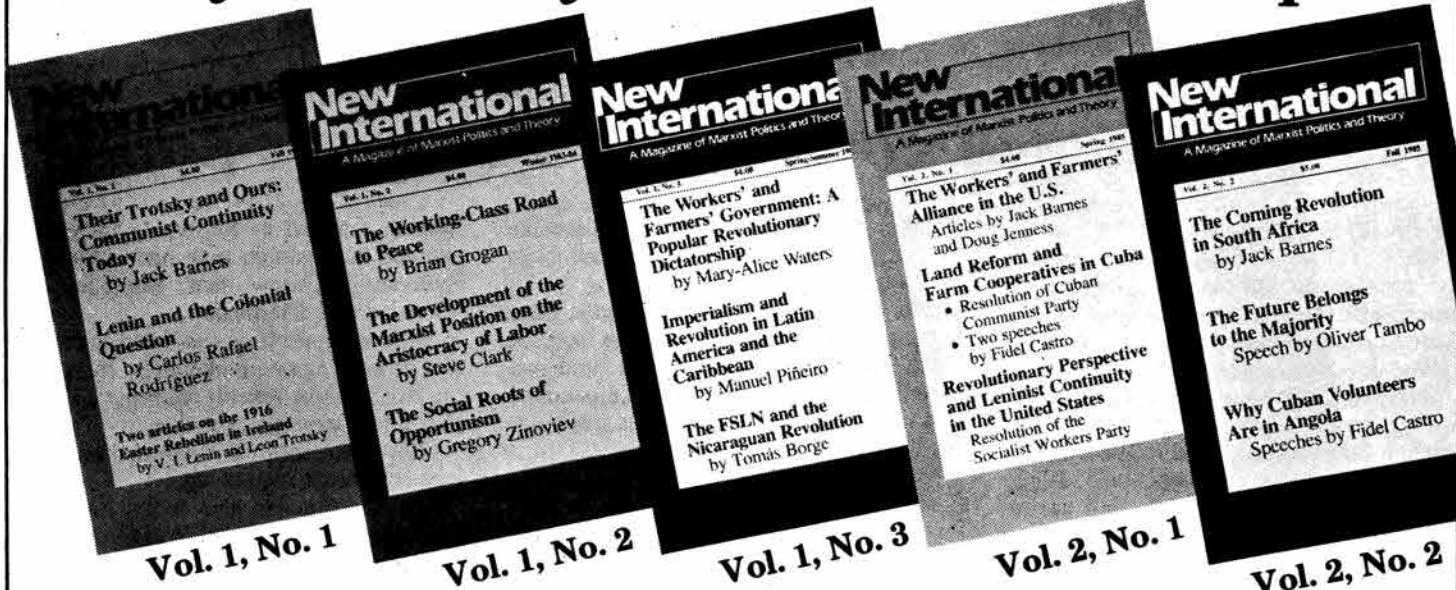
Sunil Kumar, age 14, said, "Carbide should be punished with the gas, just as they killed us. Carbide has destroyed my family — my parents, three sisters, two brothers."

While Carbide plays its legal games, these are the real lives with which they are playing.



Bhopal resident blinded by gas leak from Union Carbide plant. Disaster killed more than 2,300 people in December 1984.

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Peasants at cotton weigh station outside Gonaïves. Rise in protests reflects small farmers' determination to win more land, lower rents, and lower taxes.

Haitian peasants begin to organize strikes, protests, demonstrations

Use new freedoms to demand economic justice

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Peasants from Jean-Rabel in northwest Haiti call a demonstration against a landlord who is trying to drive them off their land.

In La Chapelle, peasants organize a demonstration against the policies of the ruling military junta.

Peasants in Sarrazin threaten to strike if the junta does not allow imports of a breed of hogs known as "Creole pigs."

In the Artibonite Valley, peasants initiate a broad meeting to oppose imports of cheap U.S. rice.

Some 500 peasants meet in the village of Desdunes to launch an association to defend their rights and interests.

Peasants in Demajag announce they will no longer to pay taxes, since they have not been provided with a school, health clinic, or agricultural assistance.

These are a few examples of how Haitian peasants are utilizing the new openings to politically organize since the fall of the U.S.-backed Duvalier dictatorship in February 1986.

Exploitation by landlords

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, the product of more than 150 years of exploitation by U.S. and French bankers and businessmen and a small circle of Haitian landlords and government officials.

Some 75 percent of Haiti's 6 million people live in the countryside. However, a handful of rich landlords own two-thirds of all the land. They make their money by charging peasants high rents for land and exorbitant interest for loans. They invest their profits in commerce and luxurious living in the cities, leaving agricultural production without modern machinery or infrastructure.

Most peasants, on the other hand, live on tiny plots of land, many less than one acre. Most work with the simplest tools, without even plows or draft animals. They have to rent land and borrow money to survive.

Few peasants have access to good drinking water, medical care, or schools. Three-quarters of Haiti's rural population lives below the "absolute poverty level," according to the World Bank. Ninety percent of children in the countryside suffer from malnutrition.

Haitian peasants were hard hit during the 29 years of the Duvalier dictatorship. Taxes rose sharply, going into the pockets of Duvalier and his cronies. The Tontons Macoutes, Duvalier's private thugs, had free rein to enrich themselves through extortion, exorbitant tax collections, and theft of land from the peasants.

This led to a growing desperation and anger among peasants that helped spur the broad protests that eventually forced Duvalier to flee the country.

'Solidarity with peasants'

The following examples of protests and political organizing by peasants have been taken from *Haiti Progrès*, a Haitian weekly printed in Brooklyn, New York, that carries direct reports from Haiti.

In the town of Jean-Rabel, Rémy Lucas, a rich landlord, is trying to drive peasants from seven surrounding rural areas off their land. The Lucas family was a staunch supporter of the Duvalier dictatorship. In May 1986 Lucas sent hundreds of armed thugs to attack the peasants, burning 15 homes and killing several people.

The peasants went to local radio stations to publicize their plight, and then filed suit against Lucas. They knew they couldn't count on the court to rule in their favor, so in January 1987 they issued a public appeal to "all small peasants, all the poor like us, everyone from the people's church, everyone fighting for the liberation of the people" to join them at the Gonaïves courthouse to demand justice.

"We know that 1987 will be the year of solidarity with the peasants, with all the poor who do not have a home," their statement declared.

Peasants from Sarrazin raised a common complaint in December 1986, when they protested the exorbitant fees and bribes demanded by government officials for birth certificates and other legal documents.

"How can a poor peasant pay money right and left like that?" they asked. "The people of Sarrazin say: Stop the thieves! It's time for all Haitian peasants to protest for a people's government."

On Christmas day 1986 nearly 2,000 peasants from rural communities near Les Cayes issued a public letter to the minister of agriculture demanding the importing of Creole pigs. This is one of the demands most often raised by Haitian peasants today.

Creole pigs are a hardy breed that can scavenge for food and survive with very little care. Thus, even the poorest family could raise one, and for many the sale of a pig was their only source of significant cash income all year.

In the early 1980s the Duvalier regime ordered the slaughter of all the pigs in Haiti in response to an outbreak of swine fever. The regime promised that the pigs would be replaced. But like other promises made by Duvalier, this never happened.

Some U.S.-bred pigs have been imported, but few were given to the peasants. Furthermore, these new pigs require special feed, barns, and medical treatment that are impossible for most peasant families to afford.

Today the military junta is blocking attempts to import Creole pigs from neighboring countries, claiming that they are a health threat to the new pigs. However, Catholic Church officials in Haiti recently offered to oversee medical inspection of the Creole pigs, to clear the way for their entry into the country. Peasants are now demanding the government allow the church officials to organize the import of these pigs.

Protests against rice imports

Rice farmers have been spurred to organize by a sudden flood of cheap rice — imported from the United States — which is driving Haitian rice off the market and ruining the peasantry.

Under the Duvalier regime, a handful of his relatives and supporters held a monopoly on the import trade. They restricted supplies and raised prices to guarantee themselves hefty profits.

Food, clothing, and medicine were often as expensive in Haiti as in the United States, even though a Haitian worker made less than one-tenth the wage of a U.S. worker. Thus, lower prices was one of the central demands of the protests that brought down the Duvalier regime.

The military junta that took over as the dictator left allowed unrestricted imports and ignored the huge contraband trade that quickly developed. Cheap U.S. products,

often of bad quality, flooded Haiti, and prices fell significantly. Rich merchants, speculators, and ship owners made big profits off this expanding trade.

However, when the sudden import of large quantities of U.S. rice reduced rice prices by 50 percent, it meant immediate disaster for thousands of poor peasants. They still had to pay high rents, interest, and taxes, and now had no money left to buy food, clothing, or medicine. Many may lose their land and have to seek jobs in the cities, where unemployment is already over 50 percent.

The situation grew particularly serious in the Artibonite Valley, southeast of Gonaïves, where tens of thousands of peasant families grow rice. By October 1986 more than 70 percent of all peasants in the Artibonite were losing money on their crops. Tons of unsold rice accumulated in warehouses.

As this crisis deepened, peasant associations developed in the Artibonite. They issued appeals against the import of rice, held demonstrations and, in some cases, tried to physically prevent the import and transportation of the U.S. rice.

Haitian unions, human rights groups, and political organizations backed the peasants, demanding that the government ban imported rice. They demanded that the government encourage Haitians to produce more food, decrease dependence on food imports, and not ruin the peasantry. Haitian agronomists called for lower rents, interest rates, and prices for fertilizers and chemicals so the peasants can afford to sell rice at a lower price.

Workers in Haiti take first steps to build a fighting union movement

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — When the owner of the Cuirs Hawton leathers goods factory in Haiti fired six workers in December 1986, all the workers at the plant went on strike to demand that the six be rehired. Their strike is an example of the efforts by Haitian workers to build a fighting union movement in the face of stiff opposition from U.S. and Haitian bosses.

For 29 years Haiti was ruled by the U.S.-backed Duvalier dictatorship. More than half of all workers were unemployed and wages averaged less than \$3 a day. This meant big profits for Haitian bosses and for the many foreign capitalists, most from the United States, who had set up factories in Haiti. The only unions tolerated were a few tightly controlled by the dictatorship.

The bosses fired workers who attempted to form independent unions, and relied on the brutal repression of Duvalier's thugs, the Tontons Macoutes, to prevent workers from organizing. When a massive popular rebellion forced Duvalier to flee the country in February 1986, Haitian workers began to raise demands for higher wages and started to form unions.

Factory bosses, both Haitian and U.S., responded with intimidation and arbitrary firings. Between March and October 1986, 12 companies alone fired a total of 1,225 workers in response to union organizing drives. In the single biggest case, the Nielson company shut down its plant and threw 600 workers into the street.

Being fired is a serious threat to Haitian workers, as the massive unemployment be-

Two recent national meetings took up the crisis facing Haitian peasants.

In early November 1986, some 160 peasant organizers held a week-long meeting near Hinche. They called for a national peasant congress to be held in March 1987. Among their specific demands were the importing of Creole pigs, an end to rice imports, lower prices for farm tools, guaranteed minimum prices for agricultural products, and that taxes paid by peasants should be used to improve their communities.

The peasant organizers also demanded a broad public discussion to help draft a new constitution for Haiti. They said that the new constitution should be written in the Creole language, and that all government business should be conducted in Creole. Most government proceedings are now carried out in French, which is spoken by only 10 percent of all Haitians.

The National Association of Haitian Agronomists organized a seminar December 15-20 that involved political activists and representatives of some Catholic social service groups.

Agronomist Wouzell Sendik, writing in the Dec. 30-Jan. 6, 1987, *Haiti Progrès*, reported that the need for major land reform was a big topic of discussion at the seminar.

Among the major conclusions were: that Haiti needs a government committed to carrying out a land reform, that the peasants themselves should be involved in implementing land reform, that plots of land should be given to each peasant family, and that the land reform should be carried out rapidly, and not drag on for years.

came even worse during 1986. The number of workers employed in foreign-owned factories fell from 50,000 to 40,000, and thousands of other workers lost their jobs in plants owned by Haitian businessmen and the Haitian government.

Despite these pressures, the workers continue to organize. The Cuirs Hawton workers are affiliated to the Autonomous Federation of Haitian Workers (CATH). This union federation was publicly launched in 1980, but was quickly forced underground by Duvalier's repression. Since the dictatorship was overthrown, CATH has grown, signing up workers in U.S.- and Haitian-owned factories, organizing truck and taxi drivers, and starting several peasant unions.

Government employees are also organizing. The National Federation of Haitian Teachers carried out a strike that shut down public schools throughout Haiti December 10-12. The teachers demanded an increase in their minimum wage from \$120 a month to \$300 a month. And they pressed the government to pay back wages owed to the teachers. Many had not been paid in two months.

In a statement supporting the teachers' strike, CATH pointed out that other government employees face the same problems and that the nurses union was also demanding higher wages. CATH called on workers to "strengthen the chain of solidarity because solidarity is stronger than all the weapons in the country. It is with solidarity that we will get respect for our rights," the union said. — H.M.

'A policy of war is imposed on our region by your government'

Letter from Honduran union to U.S. envoy

The following are excerpts from a letter sent on Jan. 13, 1987, to Everett Briggs, U.S. ambassador in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, by the National Executive Committee of the 40,000-member United Workers Federation of Honduras.

It was published in the January 18 Managua daily *Barricada*. The translation and subheads are by the *Militant*.

The political crisis suffered by the Central American countries marches dangerously toward a false conclusion: a regional war. When it reaches this phase, one of its main victims will be Honduras, and particularly the Honduran people.

The United Workers Federation of Honduras (FUTH) is convinced that this conflict would not exist in Central America, advancing ominously toward its fatal outcome, were it not for the policy of war imposed by your government on the people of this region.

The government headed by Mr. Ronald Reagan attributes the origin of the crisis in Central America to the East-West conflict; in other words, to external causes.

In placing the blame for the Central American crisis on the contradictions between Capitalism and Socialism, you are only covering up the real causes of the problem, hiding the social inequalities prevalent among the peoples of Central America, and the system of superexploitation by multinational companies — particularly North American — in this region.

The aim of the policies carried out by the government that you represent in Honduras is clear: to prevent the Central American peoples from changing the current economic and social structures that underlie our backwardness, dependency, underdevelopment and oppression.

Responsible for conflict with Nicaragua

That, Mr. Briggs, is why we are fully aware that the [Honduran government's] armed confrontation with Nicaragua does not have an internal origin, but is rather the product of your government's interference in the internal affairs of Honduras.

In adopting the war plans President Reagan offers as a solution to the crisis in the Central American region — the military solution — with the resulting intervention by your government, the United States has assumed total control over our country's political and administrative life. Since your government does not want to deal directly with this low-intensity confrontation, except through substitute forces such as the Somozaist *contras* and the armies of

Honduras and El Salvador in order to minimize U.S. casualties, this plan of aggression has had to advance slowly. The object being that the government in Managua will grow desperate through the provocations of the *contras*, the CIA, and the Pentagon — thus lighting the fuse along the [Honduran-Nicaraguan] border.

The U.S. government has sought to cover up and deny this relationship between the ruler and the ruled under the guise of an alliance and protection offered by the United States.

According to the previous administration of [Honduran President] Roberto Suazo Córdova, there were no U.S. military installations in Honduras; the *contras* were not in Honduran territory — they were "democratizing Nicaragua"; hundreds of persons were not disappeared; people illegally detained in clandestine jails were not being tortured; it was not true that the government was disrupting people's organizations.

Brings shame on our country

Lies and deceptions became the normal recourse. And President [José] Azcona applies basically the same policies today, bringing international shame to his govern-



U.S.-*contra* airbase near Nicaragua-Honduras border. Letter points out that U.S. seeks to ignite conflict between two Central American countries using *contra* provocations.

ment and to the name of our country.

Further, he rejects negotiations to solve the crisis and disavows the role played by the United Nations and its peace-seeking mission. Thus he has broken with international law following the steps taken by Ronald Reagan's government, which was condemned by the International Court of Justice as guilty of aggression against Nicaragua. From this position he claims the right to intervene in the internal life of Nicaragua and demands a peace treaty that would abolish Nicaragua's sovereignty.

But despite the attempts to hide the truth, the nations of the world know of the tragedy lived by Honduras, a country occupied by two foreign armies — of the United States and the *contras*.

By whichever way your government

chooses to smash and destroy Nicaragua's sovereignty, the right of all the Central American peoples to their own self-determination will be suspended.

The workers of our country, engulfed today in the policy of domination carried out by the U.S. government, and particularly the United Workers Federation of Honduras, firmly condemn this criminal and unjust war, a war that has already started.

We think that the best solution safeguarding our genuine national interests would be for you to stop interfering in our internal affairs; for the government you represent to stop its policy of war; for it to respect the right to self-determination; and finally, for all foreign troops to leave our territory.

Cops lay murderous siege on Denver-area home

BY MIKE CHAMBERLAIN
AND HOS KERR

DENVER — A rally to protest the police killing of Mark Guerra is to be held at the city hall in Thornton, just north of Denver, on February 27.

Guerra was killed by the police in November when SWAT teams laid siege to the Guerra house, detonated three bombs, and then stormed the house with a hail of gunfire. An autopsy finally released by Adams County officials on January 31 revealed that Guerra had been shot 11 times.

"How can the U.S. claim to be concerned about terrorism around the world, and then let incidents like this go unpunished?" Ron Guerra, Mark's brother, told a meeting here January 24. "If this wasn't an act of terrorism, what is?"

Events leading up to this cop murder began at the Guerra home on November 12. Alex Guerra, another of Mark's brothers, notified police that Mark was in an agitated state of mind. Mark had suffered from manic-depression and was upset over a recent divorce. There was a hunting rifle in the house, and Alex feared that Mark might hurt himself.

Police responded by laying siege to the house with SWAT teams and a small army

of nearly 100 cops drawn from the Thornton, Northglenn, Westminster, and Denver police departments.

Police lifted the siege the next day despite their later claims that Guerra posed a danger to the community. Children were allowed to walk to school in front of the house. Police renewed the siege again on November 14.

Guerra had a gun and was clearly afraid of being taken by the police. However, he had injured no one and only returned fire from police after he had been fired upon.

Mark's mother, Margaret, and other family members were held in the coffee room at the Thornton police station. Police told Margaret Guerra, "Everything's going fine," but family members were not permitted to contact Mark by phone, or to even leave the police station until a lawyer intervened on their behalf.

At one point, Larry Ansel, the minister from the family's church, was able to speak with Mark by phone. Mark told Ansel that he would turn over his gun and ammunition to the minister.

When asked later whether he thought he could have gotten Mark out of the house without harm, the minister responded, "Without a doubt!"

But police refused to let the minister go in. They cut off communication to the house and resolved to end the siege by force.

The house, owned by Guerra's mother, was virtually destroyed when police used explosives to dislodge him.

Police then riddled the house with automatic weapons fire and stormed inside.

When police were asked why they didn't make use of the canine corps to subdue Mark, they responded, "We don't want to lose a good dog."

Adams County district attorney Jim Smith announced that prosecutors will not file criminal charges against any police officer in the Guerra case. "We thought the actions taken by the police were justifiable," Smith told reporters.

The Guerra family has retained Kenneth Padilla, a civil rights attorney, to file legal action against the authorities. The family is seeking compensation for the destruction of their home, lodging expenses incurred in the interim, compensation for the anguish they have suffered, and punishment of the officers and their superiors responsible for the killing.

Family members speaking at a Denver Militant Forum on January 24 urged participation in the February 27 rally in Thornton. It will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Fifty dollars was raised at the forum, which will go to the Margaret Guerra Trust Fund to help rebuild her home.

Honduran unionist barely escapes death squad

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Leonor Meza, a leader of the 40,000-member United Workers Federation of Honduras (FUTH), narrowly escaped a bombing attempt on her life January 14 in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.

Meza had recently toured the United States as a guest of labor organizations. There, she spoke about the struggle of the Honduran people against the presence of U.S. and *contra* troops in their country.

The bomb that destroyed Meza's parked car exploded prematurely, saving her life. Another attempt had been made on her life last October 29, when unidentified terrorists threw a bomb at her car.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for either of the attacks. Meza blames *contras* who, with the Honduran government's complicity, seek to muzzle popular opposition to U.S. use of Honduran territory in its war against the Nicaraguan people.

25th anniversary of the Second Declaration of Havana

This declaration was presented by Fidel Castro before a rally of one million in Havana on Feb. 4, 1962. Responding to an onslaught against Cuba conducted by the U.S. within the Organization of American States and throughout Latin America, it was a call for the peoples of the continent to conquer their final independence from imperialist oppression.

Pathfinder Press pamphlet with declaration was printed March 1962 and has been available ever since. With the First Declaration of Havana, 38 pages, 75¢. Available from bookstores listed on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75¢ for postage and handling.



Steel company halts medical payments

Kaiser Steel Corp. has suspended medical benefit payments to over 5,000 working and retired steelworkers.

The company has mailed the steelworkers a letter telling them they have 30 days to begin picking up the tab for their benefits or they will be cancelled.

"Tragically, the once mighty Kaiser Steel does not have the financial ability to continue funding your medical benefits," Kaiser Board Chairman Bruce Hendry wrote.

The United Steel Workers of America has filed suit against Kaiser in Los Angeles charging that the company's cancellation of medical benefit payments violates its contract with the union.

Tom Gustafsson, Swedish revolutionary, dies

Leader of Socialist Party of Sweden and of Fourth International

BY DOUG JENNESS

Tom Gustafsson, a founder and central leader of the Socialist Party of Sweden and a leader of the Fourth International, died in Stockholm on February 7. His sudden death was caused by pancreatitis, a disease that afflicts the pancreas. He would have been 40 in three weeks.

Tom was part of the generation of students and young workers who joined the communist movement in the late 1960s. For two decades he devoted his life unflinchingly to advancing that movement.

When Tom first became a student at the University of Lund in the mid-1960s, he got involved in an organization of liberal youth.

But he was soon attracted to the Swedish component of the worldwide movement against Washington's war in Vietnam. He became convinced that a victory for the Vietnamese workers and peasants led by the National Liberation Front was the only road out of decades of colonial exploitation and oppression.

Tom joined a heterogeneous radical student organization, Clarity, which played a leading role in the student antiwar movement. As the student radicalization deepened many in the leadership of this group, like similar formations in other countries, were attracted to Maoism. But Tom soon came into conflict with the Maoist leadership, which led him to study history more closely.

Inspired by French revolt

During this same period, Tom, like many youth at that time, was inspired and politically changed by the student and workers revolt that shook France in May and June 1968. He went to Paris during the events to see the struggle for himself, to be part of it, and to meet the revolutionary youth leading it.

The same year he also went to Czechoslovakia, where reforms by the regime of Alexander Dubcek had set into motion massive pressure for lifting bureaucratic restrictions and permitting democratic rights. Students played a prominent role in that development, before it was suppressed by Soviet troops who invaded Czechoslovakia in August 1968.

These experiences helped attract Tom to the Fourth International, whose members in France played a significant role in the student movement and won hundreds of new members following the May-June events, and which supported the fight for democratic rights in Czechoslovakia.

In Sweden, Tom became part of a current in Clarity that came into conflict with the Maoists' ultraleft outlook and practices. When Clarity split in 1969, Tom helped set up the Bolshevik Group with some 30 members. This group fused with another small group, the Revolutionary Marxists, to form the Revolutionary Marxist League in 1971.

Out of the burgeoning student movement of the 1970s, the RML was successful in winning several hundred young people. In 1974, it was recognized as the Swedish section of the Fourth International.

The RML changed its name to the Communist Workers League in 1975, and became the Socialist Party in 1982. Tom was

a central leader of the party through all these stages of its development.

An internationalist

Tom was an internationalist. He took a big interest in struggles in other countries and immersed himself in the life of the Fourth International. In 1974 he was elected to the International Executive Committee of the Fourth International and a few years later to its main subcommittee, the United Secretariat. He served on both these bodies until he died.

Tom participated in many international delegations. His assignments took him throughout Europe as well as the United States. He took particular interest in the progress of the revolutionary workers movement in other Scandinavian countries.

Tom visited the United States on numerous occasions. He attended national gatherings of the Socialist Workers Party and its leadership and got to know many members. What many who met him here will particularly remember is the interest he took in learning more about the struggles of the U.S. working class.

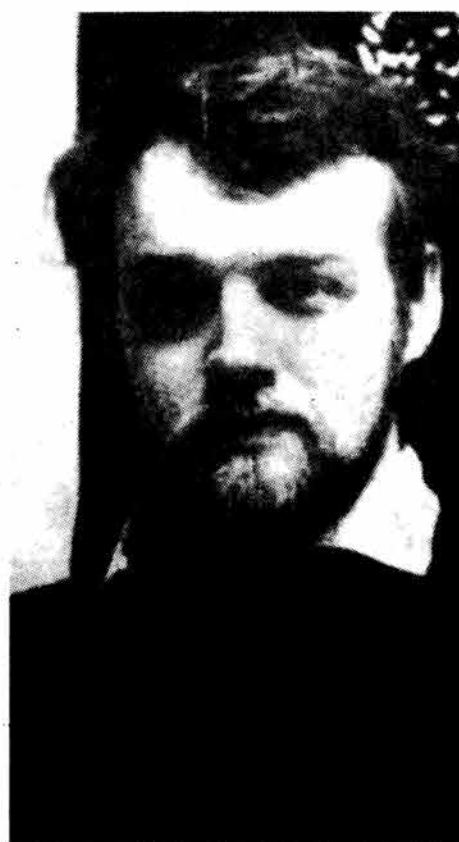
During the 1978 national miners' strike, for example, he made trips to the coal mining regions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania. He talked to miners in the area to learn firsthand about the struggles there.

He was also interested in the SWP's activities on the Iron Range of northern Minnesota, which is similar in some respects to the mining areas of northern Sweden.

Tom followed closely and participated in some of the discussions in the SWP about the importance of getting a majority of its members working in basic industry and active in the industrial unions.

Worked in industry

Along with other leaders in Sweden, he took a job in industry as part of an effort by



Tom Gustafsson

the SP to make a turn toward work in the industrial unions. Tom worked in the metal industry for about two years in 1979 and 1980.

At the same time he continued to carry out international assignments and attend United Secretariat meetings when he was able.

For three years beginning in 1981, Tom and his companion and comrade Birgitta lived in Paris, where he participated in the Bureau of the United Secretariat and she helped organize the library and archives for

Inprecor and *International Viewpoint*. These are the French- and English-language fortnightly magazines of the United Secretariat.

Tom was one of the regular contributors to *International Viewpoint*. He particularly attempted to give English-language readers some knowledge about developments in the class struggle in Sweden.

When they returned to Stockholm, Tom resumed day-to-day central leadership responsibilities on the Political Committee of the Socialist Party. He also wrote regularly for the SP's weekly newspaper, *Internationalen*.

Tom was tall, robust, and full of energy. He liked the outdoors and often urged friends from other countries to visit him and Birgitta at a cabin when they vacationed in the land of the midnight sun in northern Sweden.

He took a keen interest in the fight to prevent the destruction of the environment and encouraged those who sought to make the SP and revolutionary organizations in other countries more alert to this issue.

Tom's energy, experience, and dedication to the struggle for a communist world will be missed by his comrades throughout the world, and especially in Sweden.

In a message to the Socialist Party, Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, wrote, "The SWP extends warmest fraternal solidarity to the comrades of the Socialist Party as you pay tribute to the accomplishments and example of our comrade and friend Tom Gustafsson."

The message concluded, "We stand with you in these difficult days and are confident that Tom's example will continue to serve as a source of strength and unity to the party he helped build."

A meeting honoring Tom's contributions will be held in Stockholm on February 13.

Hosea Williams, other rights protesters arrested by Forsyth County and state cops

BY MACEO DIXON

CUMMING, Ga. — Cops from the Georgia State Police and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) arrested Hosea Williams, an Atlanta city councilman and prominent leader of protests against racist segregation in Forsyth County, February 9. Seven others were arrested at the same time.

The arrests broke up a picket line protesting exclusion of Blacks from the audience of the nationally televised Oprah Winfrey show, which was being staged that day in Cumming. When Winfrey announced February 4 the show would take place live in Cumming, she said its purpose was to "explore the feelings of the people of Forsyth County."

She specified that only county residents could participate — effectively barring Blacks, since all Black residents were driven out of the county by racist gangs in 1912.

The county has remained a segregated, whites-only enclave ever since. It attracted

wide attention January 17 when 75 anti-racist marchers came under attack from hundreds of racists organized by the Ku Klux Klan. A week later, 30,000 people marched here against racist segregation. Continuing protests demand the county, state, and federal government enforce the legal right of Blacks to live, work, or travel safely in the county.

The protests also demand that descendants of those who were driven out be compensated for the land that was stolen from them — either with land or financial compensation.

The de facto exclusion of Blacks from the Winfrey program aroused wide protest, including from groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

On the morning of February 9, about 30 protesters led by Williams left Atlanta to picket the Winfrey program. They were escorted by agents of the GBI. Once in Cumming, they were instructed where to park their cars.

As they walked down the main street to the Dinner Deck, the restaurant where the show was being held, GBI agents rushed toward them. They grabbed Williams and started shoving him.

They claimed the protesters were blocking traffic and had to leave.

Williams said, "OK, we'll get out of the street," and the protesters all stepped on the sidewalk. At the barricaded street leading to the restaurant, Williams began to read a statement to the media.

After only a few words he was set upon by the cops. As they dragged him away, Williams shouted, "This is Forsyth County. This is what you see, the real Forsyth County."

Other picketers tried to block the cops from putting Williams in the police wagon. When that failed, several jumped in to join him.

Very quickly, five or six tow trucks came barreling into the area and started towing away cars of protesters.

Seven of those arrested posted bond and were released that day. Williams refused to post bond and was released the next day. Charges are still pending.

The entire cop operation had been directed by an assistant to Georgia Attorney General Mike Bowers.

Joseph Lowery, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Coretta Scott King issued a statement expressing "outrage at the unlawful arrest" of Williams. They demanded a meeting with Governor Joe Frank Harris.

In a news conference after the show, Winfrey said, "I'm very, very sorry and hope this won't be portrayed as a war between Rev. Williams and myself, because I'm very sorry he was arrested, and I would like for him to have been on the show if the show had not been one concerning the residents of Forsyth County."

Asked how she felt about the county in the wake of the show, on which some residents mouthed racist epithets, Winfrey said, "Not very comfortable at all and I'm leaving. I'm leaving now."

The statement that Williams was prevented from reading in Cumming protested "our Black sister Oprah Winfrey's schemery to exclude all Blacks and any representatives of the coalition from appearing on her show..."

"The so-called responsible and moderate leadership of Forsyth County, including the business and political leadership," Williams continued, "are guilty of a sin against Black people because they have not challenged and have allowed the continuation of the KKK mentality, terrorizing Black Americans."

Malcolm X Today

Jack Barnes

National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

Editor and author of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, interviewed Malcolm X in Jan. 1965.

In Pittsburgh:

at William Penn Hotel
Three Rivers Room
530 William Penn Pl.,
Mellon Square
Sat., Feb. 21, 8 p.m.

Donation: \$3. Sponsored
by Young Socialist Alliance.
For more information call YSA.
(412) 362-6767.

In New York City:

at 79 Leonard St.
(5 blocks south of Canal)
Manhattan
Sat., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.

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Pathfinder Press expanding its sales in Pacific region

BY SAM MANUEL

SYDNEY, Australia — In the past few weeks the press here has been centering its attention on the extravagant yachting event known as the Americas Cup. And judging from the number of U.S. television crews and newspaper reporters here, this event may be what most Americans learn about this part of the world.

But there is a great deal more going on here. The South Pacific today is marked by a growing struggle against the intolerable conditions of imperialist and colonial exploitation. Fighters in countries throughout the region are very interested in revolutionary experiences around the world. This interest in revolutionary ideas has been at the heart of the success of Pathfinder Press in Sydney.

While here, I met with Pathfinder's Dave Deutschmann. Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia was set up three years ago here as a distributor in this region for Pathfinder Press based in New York.

Its first campaign was promoting *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, a collection of the revolutionary leader's speeches and other material about the Grenada revolution. The book was published shortly after the U.S. military invasion of Grenada in 1983, following the overthrow of the revolutionary government and the murder of Bishop.

"For many people who had been inspired by the Grenada revolution," said Deutschmann, "this book was the only way to find out the ideas of its most capable leader." Just in the first few weeks of the book's availability, Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia sold 300 copies.

In 1984 Deutschmann was the only staff member. Today there is a staff of four with offices located in a central area of Sydney, including administrative offices, a book shop, and a warehouse.

In three years Pathfinder has made big advances. "Our distribution has never been so wide," Deutschmann said. "In the last year we have doubled the number of accounts with bookstores in Australia. Pathfinder services over 100 stores in this country, covering five of the six major population centers."

Because of the wide interest in politics, Deutschmann continued, "We soon found

that you can't have any preconceptions about who will take our books. Fifty percent of our sales have been to mainstream bookstores."

Pathfinder expects its sales to hit the six-figure mark this year.

A surprising aspect of Pathfinder's expansion has been the volume of sales of books in Spanish. Some 80,000 Spanish speakers live in Australia, many of them refugees who fled the repressive U.S.-backed regimes in El Salvador and Chile. Last year Pathfinder sold over Australian \$8,000 worth of books (about US\$5,400) in Spanish.

Deutschmann noted, "The bookshop we have here had a total of US\$7,000 in sales last year. Fifty percent was sales of Spanish-language books, in spite of the fact that our bookshop is not our main emphasis and is located on the top floor of the building. We are primarily a distributor."

In addition to making revolutionary books available in Australia, Deutschmann said that Pathfinder "is increasingly looked to as a valuable resource by revolutionary fighters throughout the Pacific-Asia region."

For example, 10 percent of Pathfinder sales last year were in New Zealand. Pathfinder's main outlet there is Pilot Books. An increasing market for English-language books also exists in Japan.

More than 70 copies of *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International* have been sold in Japan. This is the first volume in a series on the Communist International in Lenin's time that Pathfinder is publishing.

Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia also services bookstores in Hong Kong, Singapore, Fiji, Vanuatu, and Papua-New Guinea.

The upsurge of workers and farmers in the Philippines has created broader opportunities and challenges for Pathfinder. "We didn't expect to be as far along as we are today. But events in the Philippines have accelerated that process."

Thousands of dollars in sales have been made in the Philippines. Several promotional meetings for Pathfinder titles have been held there in the past year.

The first was for *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*, a collection of



Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia display at Third International Havana Book Fair in September attracted attention, particularly because of recent publication of *Fidel and Religion* in English. Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia was first Australian publisher or distributor to be represented at the book fair.

speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. It was launched at the National Press Club in Manila.

The most successful were three meetings to launch *Fidel and Religion*, based on an interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by Brazilian priest Frei Betto.

Fidel and Religion was published by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia which represented a big advance. Up until its publication, Pathfinder Australia had been exclusively a distributor of books.

Three hundred people attended the meeting at the University of the Philippines to launch *Fidel and Religion*. Another meeting was attended by prominent religious and political leaders. It featured Ed de la Torre, a priest imprisoned for many years during the Marcos tyranny, and Ana Maria González, the Cuban consul in the Philippines. Jose Maria Sison, a founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, also attended the meeting.

Deutschmann explained, "These meet-

ings were important not only for publicizing the book. They also helped broaden discussion of and interest in the Cuban revolution. They were the first public meetings held about Cuba since the fall of the Marcos regime."

Fidel and Religion has now also been reprinted in the Philippines.

The impact of *Fidel and Religion* has been felt in Australia and New Zealand. A bulletin board in Pathfinder's offices displayed dozens of clippings of reviews of the book from the major newspapers and magazines in the two countries.

Pathfinder here also distributes books from other sources. Among them are the London-based International Defence and Aid Fund, which publishes material on the struggle against apartheid, the José Martí publishing house in Cuba, and Food First publications.

In addition, Pathfinder is the distributor here for *New International*, the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Castro book gets wide praise

BY HELEN MEYERS

Nothing Can Stop the Course of History, an interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by Congressman Mervyn Dymally and Prof. Jeffrey Elliot, has received a lot of attention in newspapers and magazines that are primarily oriented toward Black readers. The book is published by Pathfinder Press.

Big Red, a New York weekly, ran almost a full page of quotes from the interview, covering Castro's views on the debt crisis in Latin America, the struggle against the apartheid system in South Africa, drug trafficking and Cuba, the Olympics, and Central America.

The *Carolina Peacemaker*, which is published in Greensboro, North Carolina, ran a front-page article about the book based on an interview with Elliot. "Castro was very open in the sense that he pulled no punches on the questions that we asked him," Elliot explained. "He was forceful, direct, and unambiguous. He was not like your typical American politician."

Jet magazine announced the book's publication.

Haiti Progrès, a French- and Creole-language weekly published in New York, ran a review in French.

Coverage in Caribbean

The book has also begun to get around the Caribbean.

The Caribbean News Agency (CANA) sent out a story featuring the section of the interview where Castro explains the events in Grenada in October 1983 that led to the overthrow of the People's Revolutionary Government headed by Maurice Bishop, Bishop's murder, and the subsequent U.S. invasion and occupation of the island.

The *Sunday Chronicle* of Guyana picked up the CANA story, as did the *Miami Times*.

An article in the *Barbados Advocate* reviewed the section of the book on the attempt by the Latin American governments in the Contadora Group to find a solution to the military conflicts in Central America.

Several U.S. dailies reviewed *Nothing Can Stop the Course of History* together with other recently published books about Castro: *Fidel: A Biography of Fidel Castro* by Peter Bourne, former assistant secretary general of the United Nations and special assistant for health affairs to former president James Carter; and *Fidel: A Critical Portrait* by Tad Szulc, the *New York Times* reporter who broke the story on the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

'Hear the story directly'

The *Miami Herald*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Des Moines Register*, and *Baltimore Sun* each reviewed the interview by Dymally and Elliot along with one or both of these books.

The *Sun* commented, "for those who would rather hear the story directly, there is *Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*."

The left newsweekly, the *Guardian*, reviewed the Szulc and Pathfinder books together.

Favorable comments about the book have also come from several prominent British politicians: Lord David Pitt, the only Black member of the House of Lords; Labour Party Member of Parliament Tony Benn; and former head of the now dissolved Greater London Council, Ken Livingstone.

The book was reviewed by the *Morning Star*, a publication of the Communist Party of Britain; *Labour Weekly*, published by the Labour Party; and several other British newspapers.

A number of U.S. professors and authors have praised the book, including Lee Lockwood, author of *Castro's Cuba*, *Cuba's Fidel*; Andrew Zimbalist, author of *Cuban Political Economy: Controversies in Cubanology*; James Petras, coeditor of *Fidel Castro Speaks*; and Manning Marable, professor of sociology and political science at Purdue University.

Two of the most important trade journals for U.S. librarians, *Library Journal* and *Booklist*, have also recommended the book.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? Behind the gov't crisis

The current U.S. government crisis has enabled millions of working people to learn a great deal about how Washington is an enemy of democracy and the self-determination of nations.

What triggered the crisis was the failure of the U.S.-backed *contras* to spark a civil war in Nicaragua. But the crisis is deeper than that.

The U.S. rulers find the constitutional structure of U.S. capitalism more and more of an obstacle in pursuing their war on working people at home and abroad.

The current issue of *PM* features an extensive article about this crisis and its meaning for working people in the United States.

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The status of women in Nicaragua today

Report traces gains and challenges as revolution mobilizes to win war

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A new report on the current status of Nicaraguan women has been published by the Women's Office of the Ministry of the Presidency here.

Since the 1979 overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship, thousands of women have entered the labor force and become involved in political organizations for the first time.

The Women's Office report focuses on the situation women face today, seven and a half years later. It explains that the U.S.-backed mercenary war, which has meant mobilizing thousands of men in defense, and the country's sharp economic crisis, have led to a new wave of women taking jobs outside the home. Many are single heads of households.

This is most dramatically shown by the increase in women farm workers, who are now 35 percent of the entire farm labor force. A growing number of women are now working the land as peasants also. In some rural war zones, says the report, "women have become a principal labor force." They are carrying out traditionally "male only" jobs for the first time.

In the cities, women workers are a big part of the textile, garment, food processing, and pharmaceutical industries. They are 80 percent of the work force in many of these plants.

A far larger number of women, however, have entered what is called the "informal sector." They are small merchants, artisans, or produce clothing or food in their homes for sale.

Double workday

Much of the report details obstacles women encounter as they enter the work force, particularly the double workday. This has a greater impact on women's lives in an underdeveloped country like Nicaragua than in an industrialized country like the United States.

Many Nicaraguan women, for example, wash the family clothes in a nearby river. They have to gather firewood to prepare meals. While providing child care is a goal of the revolution, the costs of defense have sharply limited the number of centers available.

Thus in a family where both the man and woman hold outside jobs, the woman devotes an average of 56 percent of her time to domestic labor. The man devotes only 9 percent.

In the economically more backward countryside, this means that a typical rural woman puts in an 18-hour day between her job and work in the home. An urban industrial worker may put in up to 16 hours.

On the job itself, says the report, women still lack equal access to training and promotion, and face discrimination if they are pregnant.

The report also looks at the problems of wife beating and abortion. Fifty-one percent of the cases brought to the legal office of the Nicaraguan Women's Association, it says, deal with wife beating. This violence takes place in all social classes and is most likely to occur against women who are not working outside the home.

Because abortion is illegal in Nicaragua, many women die each year from back-alley abortions. The report states that botched, illegal abortions are the leading cause of maternal death in Nicaragua, accounting for 27 percent of all such deaths.

The majority of women who have illegal abortions have been pregnant before and only 23 percent of them are single. "This destroys the traditional idea that prevails in

our media that abortion is a way out [mainly] for single women who don't want to be socially stigmatized," the report notes.

Participation in co-ops, unions

The reports explains that the revolution's land reform and farm cooperative movement have helped lay the basis for women's equality in the countryside, but that much work still lies ahead. Half of Nicaragua's co-ops have women members (a member is one who works the land, shares the collective income, and has a vote on co-op policy). Yet only 6 percent of all co-op members were women as of 1983.

Among the ideological factors holding women back from full participation in the co-ops are "the view that they are 'aides' to their husbands in agricultural production, not producers; the resistance of men to women becoming members; and the lack of greater concern for motivating their participation."

More progress has been made among women farm workers, although here again women participate far less in union affairs than men, often citing their child-care and housework responsibilities.

Nevertheless, 81 percent of women farm workers are now in unions. Their union involvement is greater on state-run than privately owned farms.

Recommendations to government

In its conclusions, the report notes that many of these findings are not generally known, despite the fact that numerous studies have been done on Nicaraguan women. It proposes that these studies be broadly circulated so they can emerge from "clandestinity."

The report points out that some of the problems women face are partly rooted in laws left over from the Somoza tyranny. "Currently, laws inherited [from Somoza] and laws made by the revolution are coexisting, creating contradictions and obstacles that block an adequate treatment of the problem," it says. For example, wife beating is not against the law.

At the same time, the report criticizes "the attitudes of some public functionaries who still maintain discriminatory schemas and values against women, affecting the correct application of revolutionary laws."

With regard to the current antiabortion law, it says, "The studies make clear that the criminalization of abortion harms women's health, increases maternal death and hospital costs, and contradicts state action aimed at improving sanitary conditions."

This is related to the more general question of "the necessity of formulating a policy that systematizes sex education and makes it massively available," says the report. "The state should provide the means for family planning."

Overall, the report concludes, a thorough revision of government policy toward women is needed:

"The situation of [U.S.] aggression and the economic crisis and social changes in the country have changed the role of the Nicaraguan woman. She has had to assume big responsibilities and has more and more integrated herself into production."

"However, the problem remains that there is no policy that redefines the role society has always assigned to women. There has been no questioning of the traditional division of labor between the sexes, or of the ideology that defines different roles for each sex."

"Both for the woman and for the fulfillment and defense of the revolution, it is necessary to overcome the inequalities between the sexes and resolve the most deeply felt problems of women, in order to achieve the construction of a new society."

"We must have a commitment to do away with the structures of sex subordination, and a vision of achieving equality between men and women in all social spheres. The transformation of the structures of inequality implies changing policies, civil and penal laws, systems of land ownership, house ownership rights, labor codes, ideologies, attitudes, and personal relations."



Militant/Arnold Weissberg
Roller shoe factory in Managua. As tens of thousands of men are mobilized to defend the country, new wave of women are taking jobs outside the home.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

S. Korean protesters defy riot police

Chanting "Down with dictatorship" and waving banners reading "Eliminate torture," tens of thousands of South Koreans rallied in Seoul February 7 for a protest memorial to a student activist killed under police torture. Demonstrations also occurred in at least three other cities, Pusan, Taegu, and Kwangju.

Riot police attacked the protesters with tear gas and clubs and arrested hundreds of them.

This large turnout came despite a broad police sweep the night of February 5. Police had raided homes, university campuses, and offices of political organizations, detaining about 2,300 people and seizing thousands of leaflets and equipment prepared for the memorial.

Park Chong Chol, the 21-year-old university student whose death prompted the memorial, was killed by police officers in mid-January. The revelation that he died under torture provoked widespread public outrage and forced President Chun Doo Hwan to dismiss his interior minister and national police chief. But their dismissals did not still the furor over Park's murder.

CIA used Zaire to arm Angolan rightists

On at least three occasions last year, the CIA used an air base in the Central African country of Zaire to transship arms to the UNITA terrorists fighting to bring down the government of Angola.

Although the U.S.-backed regime of Mobutu Sese Seko has long denied aiding UNITA, such support was widely suspected. New details about the CIA arms supply operation were revealed by *New York Times* correspondent James Brooke, in the February 1 issue of that paper.

Brooke reported that according to diplomats and businessmen in the vicinity of the "abandoned" Kamina air base in southeastern Zaire, U.S. military C-130 and C-141 supply planes frequently used the base, flying southward toward Angola.

Last year the Reagan administration budgeted \$15 million for the UNITA forces, although it has never acknowledged how the arms were getting to the group. Some were reported to have been routed through South Africa.

Infant mortality rises in southern Africa

Infant and child mortality rates in Angola and Mozambique are now the high-



Militant/Sam Manuel
Angolan war orphans, victims of South African-backed guerrilla groups.

est in the world, the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) reported January 29. This is largely because of the wars of destabilization being waged against those two countries by the South African regime, the Unicef report concluded.

In both Angola and Mozambique the mortality rate for children under five years old is more than 325 for each 1,000 children. For infants less than a year, it is 200 for each 1,000 live births. Unicef attributed 45 percent of these deaths to war and economic destabilization.

Because of the destruction caused by the South African-backed guerrilla groups, the health-care and clean-water policies originally launched by the Angolan and Mozambican governments have been severely disrupted.

Washington rejects 'nuclear free' Pacific

Government and diplomatic officials in Washington revealed February 4 that the Reagan administration has decided to reject a proposal by 13 governments in the South Pacific to make the region a "nuclear-free" zone.

The rejected proposal had been made by the South Pacific Forum, which called for a treaty prohibiting any testing, disposal, or storage of nuclear weapons in the South Pacific. The group is composed of the governments of Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Tuvalu, Niue, Fiji, Kiribati, the Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Australia, and New Zealand.

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ALABAMA

Birmingham

Get the Facts About Central America. Second annual state conference on Central America. Speakers: America Sosa, representative of Co-madres, the Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, Disappeared, and Assassinated of El Salvador; George Paris, cooperative and land development specialist for Federation of Southern Cooperatives, just returned from Nicaragua; Dr. Steven Shaffer, recently attended the In Search of Peace conference in El Salvador. Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1180 11th Ave. S. Sponsor: Birmingham Committee for Peace and Justice in Central America.

Malcolm X: His Lessons for Today. Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 28, 7 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Fight for Black Rights: From Montgomery to Forsyth County. Video showing and speaker. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Vigil for Justice. Demonstrate to stop the deportation of the Kenyan woman and Palestinians arrested under the McCarran Act. Tue., Feb. 17, noon. Immigration and Naturalization Service Building, 300 N Los Angeles St. Sponsor: Committee for Justice. For more information call (213) 413-6318.

San Diego

Crisis in the Philippines: Workers and Farmers Press Their Demands. Speakers: Emmanuel Fuentebella, photojournalist of the alternative press during the Marcos years; Mari Hawkes, member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 1125 and chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2803 B St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

San Francisco

Scopes II: Creationism vs. Evolution. Speaker: Steven Fuchs, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 21, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

San Jose

Why We Marched in Forsyth County. Speakers: Mike Redd, publisher of the San Jose, East Palo Alto, and Milpitas, *California*, newspapers; Robert Wright, teacher, Morill Middle School; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

COLORADO

Denver

The Real Role of the Soviet Union in World Politics. Speaker: Duncan Williams, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 28, 7 p.m. 25 W 3rd Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

FLORIDA

Miami

The Philippines in Crisis: An Update. Speakers: Diana Galindo; Julie Wolinski, Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Struggle Against Apartheid Today.

Speakers: Sahotra Sarkar, former teacher at Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College of the African National Congress in Tanzania. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Crisis in Meat-Packing: Which Way Forward for Workers? Speakers: Larry McClurg, member of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 431 at Hormel plant in Ottumwa; Rita Lewis, recording secretary, National Brotherhood of Packinghouse Workers Local 50 at Swift plant in Marshalltown; Bob Langemeier, member United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 22 in Fremont, Nebraska; Mac Warren, Socialist Workers Party Iowa district organizer; speaker from Original Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 14, 6 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Eyewitness Report from Cumming, Georgia. A panel discussion with participants in the January 24 antiracist march. Speakers: representatives of Socialist Workers Party, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, and Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Feb. 15, 7 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

Malcolm X: His Lessons for Today. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Feb. 22, 7 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Malcolm X: Legacy and Lessons. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. 3640 Magazine St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 895-1961.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Malcolm X: The Man and His Ideas. A film, *The Struggle for Freedom*. Discussion led by Ken Morgan, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 21, Dinner, 6 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

From Howard Beach, New York, to Forsyth County, Georgia: The Fight Against Racist Violence. A panel discussion. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Dinner, 6 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Film: Malcolm X. Speaker: Norma Hill, Michigan Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 21, 8 p.m. 2135 Woodward. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Malcolm X: A Video on His Life. Sat., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

The Legacy of Malcolm X and the Struggle

for Black Liberation Today. Speaker: Mac Warren, member of Socialist Workers Party National Committee and longtime Black rights activist. Sat., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Layoffs and Plant Closings: What Are the Causes and What Can Working People Do to Stop Them. Speaker: Jeff Powers, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Auto Workers Local 93. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Feb. 15, 7 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Blacks in America's Wars. Film showing of *No Vietnamese Ever Called Me Nigger*, 1967 documentary about Black opposition to U.S. war in Vietnam. Fri., Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Albany

Build the Washington, D.C., April 25-27 Mobilization for Peace and Justice. Planning meeting Thurs., Feb. 17, 7 p.m. Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Ave. For more information call Pledge of Resistance (518) 463-2356.

Manhattan

Organized Labor and the Black Worker. Speaker: Philip Foner, professor emeritus of history, author and historian of the Black and labor movements. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m. Preforum dinner, 6:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: forum, \$3; dinner, \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The Political Legacy of Malcolm X. Video showing and presentation. Sun., Feb. 22, 5 p.m. 2219 E Market St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Contragate: Behind the Government Crisis. Speaker: Marty Pettit, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

Toledo

Nicaragua: Eyewitness Account. Speaker: Chip Thomas, medical doctor attended the fourth International North American Health Conference, Managua; Dean Peoples, participated in coffee harvest with a North American brigade. Sat., Feb. 21, 7 p.m. 1701 W Bancroft. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Civil War: Real Story of the Second American Revolution. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

TEXAS

Dallas

Martin Luther King and the Fight Against

Racism Today. Panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. 336 W Jefferson. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

Houston

The Political Legacy of Malcolm X. Video showing and panel discussion. Speakers: Willie Mae Reid, Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

VIRGINIA

Newport News

Malcolm X and the Battle Against Racism Today. Film: *Malcolm X: the Struggle for Freedom*. Speaker: representative of the Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Stop Union Busting: Solidarity with Locked-out Workers at Lockheed. Speaker: Nate Ford, president of Boilermakers Union Local 104. Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Nelson and Winnie Mandela. A video presentation with speaker from the African National Congress of South Africa. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

From Johannesburg, South Africa, to Forsyth County, Georgia: Malcolm X, His Ideas and Their Meaning for Today. Speakers: Malik Edwards, codirector for public relations, D.C. United Black Fund, former director Malcolm X Resource Center; Jim Slade, executive board, D.C. Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Rashaad Ali, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

The Fight Against Union Busting. Speakers: Carl Benson and Paul Swank, members of Original Local P-9, United Food and Commercial Workers Union and North American Meat Packers Union; Libby Lindsay, member United Mine Workers of America and Coal Employment Project; Kathy Mickells, Socialist Workers Party, member UMW and CEP. Sun., Feb. 15, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown

Bitter Canoe. A feature-length film on the popular struggles of the people of Haiti. Discussion to follow. Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St., Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Report From Student Delegation to El Salvador. Slideshow and presentations by Judi Kinch and Chris Waraksa, members of the Latin America Solidarity Committee at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel. (512) 452-3923. **Dallas:** SWP, YSA, 336 W. Jefferson. Zip: 75208. Tel. (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel. (713) 522-8054.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel. (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel. (206) 723-5330.

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WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel. (414) 445-2076.

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CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel. (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel. (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 2803 B St. Zip: 92102. Tel. (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel. (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel. (408) 998-4007.

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FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 137 NE 54th St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 370486. Zip: 33137. Tel. (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel. (904) 222-4434.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd Floor. Zip: 30303. Tel. (404) 577-

4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: SWP, YSA, 3455 S. Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel. (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

IOWA: Des Moines: SWP, YSA, 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel. (515) 246-1695.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. Tel. (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3640 Magazine St. Zip: 70115. Tel. (504) 895-1961.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel. (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: SWP, YSA, 107 Brighton Ave., 2nd floor, Allston. Zip: 02134. Tel. (617) 787-0275.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: SWP, YSA, 2135 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48201. Tel. (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel. (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4725 Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel. (816) 753-0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel. (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA: Omaha: SWP, YSA, 140 S. 40th St. Zip: 68131. Tel. (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel. (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 114E Quail St. Zip: 12206. Tel. (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel. (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668. **Pathfinder Books,** 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: SWP, YSA, 2219 E Market. Zip: 27401. Tel. (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel. (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel. (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 1701 W Bancroft St. Zip: 43606. Tel. (419) 536-0383.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel. (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel. (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 402 N. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel. (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409

Could try standing on his head — Reporting the assignment of Rep. Dan Glickman of Kansas to the House Agriculture subcommittee on wheat, soybeans, and



Harry Ring

feed grains, Associated Press observed, "The job will require a balancing act of shielding farmers' incomes from low commodity prices, while at the same time reducing federal spending."

Enough already — Adweek tagged feel-good patriotic ads as '86's "Most Overdone Theme," finding people are getting tired of the Reagan-style optimism and seeing the ads as "mindless propaganda."

Cannon and tax fodder — The President's task force on the family favors tighter divorce laws and suggests people have more kids to help swell the Social Security fund and cope with the shortage of armed forces recruits.

And user friendly — If you're running in obsolete shoes, check out Puma's RS Computer Shoe. "Complete with an electronic cable interface and software program . . . Just plug the shoe into

the computer after a run and get a complete graphic analysis of running performance in relation to training goals."

Next move, retire at 77? — When Social Security was instituted in 1935, Roosevelt proposed the retirement age of 65. The average life expectancy then was 63. Today it's almost 75.

Measured accusation — The New York Investigation Commission flayed the state Agriculture Department for neglecting to act promptly against Beech-Nut, the baby food folk, and others who were peddling fake apple juice. The commission's finding was is-

sued after a three-year study.

Lo-cal too — One of the benefits of life in the Big Apple is the availability of bargain-basement food. Like Laurent's, a "baronial wainscoted" dining room. Thursday lunch, nicely seasoned left-over ribs from Wednesday night's prime ribs. \$20, finger bowl included.

Must be near-sighted — Ilene Nordle's Fairfield, Connecticut service agency does such chores as cooking, shopping, cleaning, and plant and pet care. Business is good, but would be even better if she could get enough help. "One of the big problems," she explains, "is that nobody seems to see many of these jobs as profes-

sions."

Upgrade the reading room — A teakwood toilet seat and back rest. \$795.

Fashion tip — The luggage industry notes with satisfaction that muppies (middle-aged yuppies) are turning from duffel bags to more substantial luggage. And there are some neat items available. Like, an ostrich carry-on bag, \$3,500. Or an alligator attached case, \$3,600.

A deal — If you're not interested in spending a lot of money on an import, you might consider the new Cadillac "Allante." \$54,700. Cellular phone extra.

Why peace talks in the Philippines collapsed

Continued from front page

and the traditional elite against the rising struggle of the Filipino people to win full democracy and genuine independence. This, too, amounts to a demand to the NDF to surrender to the political will of the government, to abandon its revolutionary principles and the people's just struggle.

"The NDF cannot agree to these demands. . . .

"Similarly, we cannot see any justification for extending the cease-fire which the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] blatantly subverted and violated."

The statement charged that the government's "coddling of the AFP ultimately led to the Mendiola massacre — the brutal slaughter of unarmed peasants peacefully marching on Malacañang to press their demands for genuine land reform — and the attack on workers picketing the Bataan Export Processing Zone, not to mention the continued military depredations against civilians in the countryside by AFP and CHDF [Civilian Home Defense Force] units."

The statement concluded, "The NDF will only return to the negotiating table after the Aquino Government has demonstrated its determination and capacity to: (1) pursue programs that would attack our society's problems at their roots; (2) assert and effectively exercise civilian supremacy over the fascist AFP, and thoroughly reform and reorient it; (3) give due recognition to the NDF as a political entity with a legitimate cause and a program supported by a considerable section of the population; and (4) work for a genuine settlement of the armed and political conflict.

"The initial peace negotiations have failed, and responsibility for the failure rests on the government's side.

"With the temporary closure of this avenue for advancing the struggle for genuine change toward a durable and just peace, the people must rely more than ever on their own efforts to advance the cause. We call on the people's organizations to wage militant and unremitting struggles on all fronts for their patriotic and democratic interests. As always the NDF stands firmly on their side."



NPA guerrillas have rejected extension of cease-fire with Philippine military

Students organize for April 25

Continued from front page

with their questions and ideas about building the action.

Also on the student subcommittee are Tom Swann, president of the United States Student Association; Marguerite Fletcher, student anti-apartheid leader in Washington, D.C.; and Josh Nessen, student organizer for the American Committee on Africa.

Several of the citywide coalitions building April 25 have also set up student subcommittees. Over 30 people attended the first meeting of the New York committee January 31. That meeting began the process of getting out to campuses in the area.

In high schools across the country from Dallas to Minneapolis, from Pittsburgh to Portland, students are organizing antiwar

groups. More than 75 people attended a conference on "High School Political Organizing" in Pittsburgh January 31. The conference was sponsored by Youth Cry — a coalition representing student groups from 16 high schools. The participants enthusiastically signed up to reserve bus tickets for the trip to Washington on April 25.

Students opposed to Washington's intervention in Central America and its backing of apartheid in South Africa can make good use of the resources of the National Student Outreach Committee.

It can be contacted by writing Tom Reifer, c/o Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa, 712 G St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003, (202) 547-0061, or c/o CISPES, P.O. Box 10256, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 265-0890.

YSA leader builds support in Virginia for antiwar, anti-apartheid action

BY ANDREW WALDEN

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — The April 25 march on Washington against the U.S. war in Central America and apartheid in South Africa was the theme of a three-city speaking tour featuring Greg Rosenberg, a national leader of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Rosenberg spoke to about a dozen people in Williamsburg on January 31. Some of them are now considering setting

up a YSA chapter at Williamsburg's Lafayette High School. The high school students as well as a group from the College of William and Mary are actively building the April 25 march.

The following evening, Rosenberg appeared as part of a panel discussion at the Militant Forum here. Along with John Domisse, an exiled South African supporter of the African National Congress, and Jack Sherman, chair of the Peninsula Peace Education Center, Rosenberg discussed the meaning of the Iran-contra crisis and the potential for building the April 25 march.

Rosenberg also spoke to a meeting sponsored by the YSA at Norfolk's Old Dominion University on February 2. Attending were several who had bought Militant subscriptions at the Oct. 25, 1986, antiwar protest in Washington; students from Maury High School in Norfolk; and ODU students. Four have asked to join the YSA.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE February 18, 1977

Amid much fanfare about a new and "tougher" policy toward white minority regimes in southern Africa, the real relationship between Washington and South Africa is coming to the surface.

In the first nine months of 1976 U.S. banks issued loans totaling \$777 million to the South African government or government-controlled corporations.

Involved are the largest U.S. banks: Chase Manhattan, Citibank, Morgan Guaranty and Trust, Bank of America, and Manufacturers Hanover.

Citibank, for example, lent \$138 million to Richards Bay Minerals. South African airlines and railways got \$99 million from the European Banking Corp. The South African Electricity Supply Commission and the Iron and Steel Industrial Corp. received \$280 million from Chase Manhattan, Manufacturers Hanover, Morgan, Orion, and Citibank. The Morgan bank threw in \$75 million for South African railways.

The South African government received a direct loan of \$110 million from the Bank of America, Morgan, and Citibank. Such a loan, of course, helps that racist government finance its murderous repression against students and workers demanding majority rule.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

February 19, 1962 Price 10c

The Second Declaration of Havana — the official answer of the Cuban revolution to the recent Punta del Este conference [of the Organization of American States] — is a revolutionary document of historic importance. It was adopted at a mass demonstration, estimated at 1 million persons, in Havana February 4.

The document is addressed "from the people of Cuba to the peoples of America and of the world." Its central theme is the Latin American revolution against domina-

tion by U.S. big business, but it places this process in the international and historic context.

The document traces the history of social struggles from the rise of capitalism to the present, declaring socialism to be the new society which will be born out of the struggles of the current epoch.

It points to the peasants of Latin America who, as the largest class there, will play a key role in the anti-imperialist revolution now unfolding.

"In the existing conditions in Latin America," the document says, "the national bourgeoisie cannot lead the anti-feudal or anti-imperialist struggle. Experience demonstrates that in our countries this class, though it has interests counter to those of imperialism, has been incapable of fighting it, paralyzed by fear of social revolution and scared by the clamor of the exploited masses."

In answer to the Punta del Este resolution, which condemned Marxism-Leninism as "incompatible with the inter-American system," the document says the only things "incompatible with the destiny of Latin America" are "the misery; the feudal exploitation; the illiteracy; the wages of hunger; the unemployment; the policy of repression against the working masses, peasants, and students; the discrimination against women, Negroes, Indians, and mestizos; the oppression by the oligarchies; the looting of riches by the Yankee monopolies; the moral suffocation of the intellectuals and artists; the ruin of small producers by foreign competition; the underdeveloped economy; peoples without roads, without hospitals, without housing, without schools, without industries. . . ."

One hundred and seven million people in Latin America suffer racial discrimination, the document relates. These are the Negroes, Indians, Mulattos and mestizos.

"The revolution," says the declaration, "is today inevitable in many Latin American countries. This fact is not determined by anybody's will," but by the above conditions and "the revolutionary consciousness of the masses, the world crisis of imperialism, and the universal movement of struggle of subjected peoples."

Labor news in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

Rescind contra aid!

The U.S. Senate is now considering a proposal to rescind the \$40 million remaining of the \$100 million that Congress voted last year for the U.S.-organized *contra* terrorists.

This motion should be passed. Washington's *contra* hired guns, who have already taken the lives of thousands of Nicaraguans, should not get another cent.

The bill is cosponsored by two Connecticut senators, Democrat Christopher Dodd and Republican Lowell Weicker. A growing number of legislators who voted for *contra* aid last year now say they will oppose further funding.

The stakes in the upcoming congressional vote were indicated when Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee February 5. Abrams made it clear that congressional approval of continuing aid would be a green light for further administration efforts to escalate the war against Nicaragua.

He went so far as to boast that the *contras* would be able to seize some Nicaraguan territory — something they have proved unable to do in more than five years of war — if Congress allowed the \$40 million to go through and approved \$105 million more the administration requests for next year.

Opposition among the Democrats and Republicans in Congress to aiding the *contras* stems from the terrorists' failure to make headway in helping to achieve Washington's goal of toppling the Nicaraguan government and reimposing a U.S.-dominated regime. Instead, the U.S.-organized war is becoming more and more mired in scandal.

The *contra* bands have taken big setbacks on the battlefield. Nicaragua's Sandinista government has the support of the workers and farmers, who are organized and armed and prepared to drive the *contras* back to bases

in Honduras.

And in the United States, a majority of the people oppose funding the *contras* — as they have all along.

A number of senators differed with Abrams. "In my judgement, the military strategy represented by the *contras* is headed for disastrous results which offer the stark prospect of deepening U.S. military involvement," said committee chairman Claiborne Pell.

Until recently, the administration tried to explain away defeats dealt the *contras* by claiming the mercenaries have been virtually penniless since Congress voted to cut off funding in 1984. But now it is known that the government funneled at least \$88 million to the *contras* since then from the CIA, proceeds of arms sales to Iran, "donations" obtained from governments like those of Saudi Arabia and El Salvador, and "humanitarian" aid voted by Congress.

The *contras*' brutality was cited in a February 9 report issued by Americas Watch, a group that monitors what it considers human rights violations in Latin America. "They still engage in selective but systematic killing of persons they perceive as representing the government, in indiscriminate attacks against civilians or in disregard for their safety, and in outrages against the personal dignity of prisoners," the report said. "The *contras* also engage in widespread kidnapping of civilians, apparently for purposes of recruitment as well as intimidation."

The *contras* have no prospect of destroying the Nicaraguan revolution, but they cause great damage and suffering to Nicaragua and its people.

Many local antiwar coalitions and the national Nicaragua Network are planning protest activities against continued *contra* funding. These actions can have considerable political impact in the coming weeks as the debate in Congress unfolds. They should be supported by all opponents of Washington's dirty war.

No justice in Grenada

The death sentences meted out late last year against Bernard Coard and 13 other Grenadians reveal the racist, colonial character of the U.S.-imposed court system that stood in judgement over them.

"No one in the Caribbean . . . can recall any parallel slaughter under the cloak of law in this century," Ian Ramsay, the head of the defense team, has said of the death sentences. The closest parallels in the Caribbean to judicially sanctioned murders on such a scale were the mass hangings of rebellious slaves ordered by the colonial planters of previous centuries.

Just as those brutalities were aimed at quelling and silencing all the oppressed, the outcome of the Grenada trial is intended to intimidate those throughout the Caribbean who would dare to challenge the political and economic domination of the region by Washington and its allies.

Asserting imperialist domination was precisely why the U.S. government, in close collusion with Grenada's former colonial masters in London, invaded the country in October 1983.

Ever since, they have spared no effort in trying to stamp out all vestiges of the political and social gains won by Grenadian working people during the revolution of 1979-83.

A government has been imposed that slavishly follows Washington's dictates, to the extent that it is one of the few regimes that votes with U.S. representatives in the United Nations against imposing sanctions on apartheid in South Africa.

Education, health care, and social services have been slashed. Unemployment has skyrocketed. Drug use, prostitution, and racist practices have been given new life.

The U.S. occupation authorities trained a special paramilitary cop force called the Special Services Unit (SSU). It has specialized in victimizing trade unionists, political activists, and young people in general. The SSU and the regular police have murdered at least a half dozen youths, beaten prisoners in their cells, and burned down homes of villagers. Details of these brutalities have been publicized and protested by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), the party set up by surviving supporters of the late Grenadian prime minister.

Hand-in-hand with this renewed cop terror has been the creation of a repressive legal system, one marked by arbitrariness and a total disregard for the fundamental rights of defendants.

That has come through very clearly in the case of Coard and his fellow accused:

- The ad hoc, provisional nature of the court deprived the defendants of any constitutional guarantees.
- They were beaten in their prison cells.
- They were denied the basic rights defendants have in most courts of law, such as the right to cross-examine witnesses, to present evidence, and even to be present in the courtroom during much of the trial.
- Their lawyers suffered harassment and intimidation.
- Many key documents were unavailable to the defense, since they were among the hundreds of thousands of pages of government and party papers seized by the U.S. invaders and taken out of the country.
- The authorities in Grenada — and their masters in Washington — are seeking to use the precedent of this trial to further entrench such arbitrary forms of "justice." They hope to take advantage of the unpopularity of the defendants in this particular case to make these violations of democratic rights more palatable.
- But the death sentences imposed on 14 of the defendants, and the long prison sentences given to three others, do not just target these individuals. They are intended to send a chill through anyone in Grenada, or elsewhere in the Caribbean, who opposes U.S., British, French, and Dutch imperial domination.
- If the Grenada courts are allowed to get away with this travesty of justice unchallenged, others will more easily fall victim tomorrow.
- It is essential for all supporters of democratic rights and of Grenada's national sovereignty to protest this judicial farce. They should demand:
 - That the defendants be given all constitutional guarantees and rights, including the right to appeal. If that is won, others will be better able to defend themselves in court as well.
 - That the defendants and their lawyers be given access to all the documents and papers they consider relevant to the case. Washington must be forced to hand over all of Maurice Bishop's papers to his family and return to Grenada all the official files seized during and since the invasion, so that they can be made accessible to Grenada's citizens.
 - That the beatings and other mistreatment of the prisoners cease. In addition, that the SSU be disbanded and the police murderers of Grenadian youth be charged and brought to trial.
 - That the executions be stopped and that capital punishment be abolished.
 - That all U.S. police and military "advisers" be withdrawn from Grenada and that Washington stop interfering in Grenada's internal affairs.

Why Soviet Union invaded Hungary and Czechoslovakia

BY DOUG JENNESS

Several weeks ago I promised in this column to explain why the Soviet government invaded Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

I had already shown that the Soviet Union isn't imperialist like the advanced capitalist countries that are characterized by the domination of finance capital and capitalist monopolies. Nothing in the Soviet economic foundations drives it to carry out military aggression against other countries, particularly those where the capitalists have been expropriated as in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

At the same time the Soviet government's stated reasons for its invasions don't hold any water. It claimed that the use of Soviet troops was necessary to crush the possibility of a capitalist restoration in these countries.

But in neither country did the great majority of people demand the overturn of state property forms, the state monopoly of foreign trade, or the planned economy.

In Hungary discontent had been building in the work-

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

ing class for nearly a decade against bureaucratic rule. Under this pressure deep divisions broke out in the bureaucracy.

The climax to this revolt came when hundreds of thousands of workers and students came out in street demonstrations. They demanded a continuation of the economic and political concessions begun during the thaw after Soviet tyrant Joseph Stalin died in 1953. On a country-wide scale workers organized councils in the factories, the army, and neighborhoods.

Although capitalist restorationists maneuvered for an advantageous position in the government, they were an insignificant force compared to the workers and peasants.

In Czechoslovakia, the slowdown in economic growth led to differences in the bureaucracy over the measures needed to advance the economy more rapidly. The wing led by Alexander Dubcek initiated a series of economic reforms and lifted some of the most onerous restrictions on democratic rights.

The measures weren't particularly radical, even compared to those carried out in other East European countries at different times, or those Mikhail Gorbachev is proposing for the Soviet Union today.

But the conflicts in the privileged bureaucracy stimulated workers and students to press for more concessions. They pressed for the rehabilitation of the victims of bureaucratic purges, more freedom for socialist publications, and the abolition of censorship.

The Soviet leaders were alarmed that the "Czechoslovak spring" might spill over into other East European countries and the Soviet Union.

In both Hungary and Czechoslovakia, Soviet troops were used to put down movements where the Soviet leaders didn't feel the regimes in those countries were capable of doing so.

Capitalist restoration was not the threat in either country, but the movements in those countries, if left unchecked, would have inspired the workers in the Soviet Union and created a challenge to the privileged caste there.

A rough parallel might be made to trade unions in this country. When workers in some local or locals take over their unions to use them to fight uncompromisingly in their interests, this threatens the overpaid mossbacks in the top levels of the labor officialdom.

They fear workers who don't subordinate their interests to bureaucratic domination and try to bring all the force they can muster to crush revolts like this before they spread too far. They don't wield state power like the bureaucrats in Moscow, but they can put a considerable amount of resources behind this effort.

They demagogically charge "rebel" locals with being in cahoots with the bosses and endangering the unions.

But the question may be asked: didn't the role of Soviet troops in helping eliminate capitalist rule in many East European countries after World War II show its expansionist drive?

No. Soviet troops moved into Eastern Europe during World War II as part of the effort to drive back and defeat the German army that had invaded the USSR in 1941. It kept its troops in Eastern Europe as part of a military buffer against the threat of further aggression.

Initially the victorious Soviet army was welcomed by workers and peasants who had been ravaged by the German Nazis. And there was an emergence of social and political struggles in those countries.

The Soviet government tried for a time to maintain capitalist governments, but the effort failed. It was forced to mobilize the workers, within guidelines it imposed, to expropriate the capitalists. Moscow set up bureaucratic regimes, dominated by it, that could keep the workers and peasants in check.

It's not empire building, but preservation of the parasitic caste that leads the Soviet leadership to ruthlessly crush revolts of working people in Eastern Europe as well as in the USSR.

What labor relations are like at GM-Toyota plant

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

New United Motor Manufacturing Inc. (NUMMI) is sending workers back to intensified orientation classes. I attended such a class in December.

The NUMMI plant in Fremont, California, used to be owned solely by General Motors. The largest U.S. auto

UNION TALK

company shut it down in 1982, but it was later reopened as a joint venture between GM and Toyota. The national auto contract was torn up and new work rules were introduced. Everybody hired had to go through intensive classes.

The team leaders (leadmen) running this latest series of classes say the NUMMI plant is threatened by a return to "bad, old ways."

The latest classes included a hard-sell restatement of the "NUMMI philosophy." This consists of trying to convince auto workers that we have the same interests as the company's billionaire owners. They also told us that management is anxious to cooperate with the union.

The leadership of the United Auto Workers (UAW) refers to this as "nonadversarial labor relations," which are supposedly different from the relations that existed in the old GM plant.

In the plant, however, speedup, job overloading and harassment by group leaders (foremen) is similar to how it was before.

In October, UAW Local 2244 assured union members that we can pull the cord to stop the line because of job

overload or needed repairs.

The leaflet said we should "work at a normal pace — Not to run." It said the union would not tolerate workers being harassed, intimidated, threatened, or abused for stopping the line.

This marked a departure from the practice established by the national UAW of praising labor relations at NUMMI. It is a welcome, if belated, recognition of the real conditions on the line.

The conditions are so different from how they were described in the initial orientation sessions that many workers say the system isn't being run like it is supposed to be. Others believe that the system is nothing but a sophisticated method of sweating more out of us.

The company tried to use the reorientation classes to convince us that conditions are really better now.

They claimed we have more "clout" than before. The team and group meetings in the plant proved this, they said.

But these meetings, in reality, decided little more than how to spend the money the company provides for recreation. Decisions about line speed and job overloads are made by the company, although complaints about work conditions do get aired in the meetings.

A term often used in the reorientation meetings is "Takt." Takt is defined as the number of hours the line runs in an area per shift divided by the number of cars produced. If 450 cars are assembled in a seven-and-a-half-hour shift, Takt time is 60 seconds. Said another way, you are supposed to have 60 seconds for each car. But in many areas the pace is much faster even though the company's operating manual says it shouldn't be.

We were shown a sample operation so we could suggest improvements. The job was run faster than Takt time. The operator told us if he didn't work at the faster pace, his group leader would get on him. When we questioned this practice, team leaders said they had been told by higher-ups that the line must actually run faster than Takt to make up for breakdowns. They also said if we didn't stretch ourselves, we'd never improve.

This sounded familiar. These are much the same arguments management used to justify the brutal line speed in the old GM plant.

Pressure for production also leads to NUMMI's "part in process" concept being ignored. This is a system where parts are supposed to arrive at the line just in time to be put on the cars. Some workers try to build up a stock of parts so they can later work a little slower. Much of the time, however, it is necessary to have extra stock nearby to keep up with the line.

Group leaders know this violates NUMMI's system but they wink at it because it allows them to get by with fewer workers.

One worker returned from the class to find his leadman building up stock to compensate for a production increase. The worker told his group leader that this contradicted what he had just been taught and asked him to lengthen Takt time to compensate for the production increase.

The group leader showed him how much clout we really have by refusing to even discuss making the adjustment.

George Johnson is a member of UAW Local 2244. He also worked at the Fremont plant when it was run by GM.

LETTERS

Renewal

I have renewed my subscription to the *Militant* for three more months. Enclosed is \$6.

I love your paper, but the sub rates are expensive for me because I quit my job. Are there any discount subs?

Also, could I have more information on the *New International*. Is it published by the Socialist Workers Party?

G.F.
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Editor replies: *New International* is published in New York by leaders of the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada and the Socialist Workers Party of the United States. Subscriptions cost \$12 for three issues, with the current issue sent free.

Good reading

Please send me the *Militant* for one year. Enclosed find check for \$24. I find the *Militant* interesting. The paper is passed on and most people find it good reading.

J.B.
Santa Fe, New Mexico

'Platoon'

After seeing *Platoon*, my first reaction is that it should be seen by everyone, particularly draft-age males. Never on the screen has the horror of war been so graphically depicted.

The film is nothing more than a series of battles seen through the eyes of a raw recruit who joined the army and asked for infantry duty without having the vaguest idea of what it was all about. But that is quite a bit, since the chaos, the insanity, and the carnage come through vividly.

When I saw the film, sitting nearby were some young men, about 17 or 18 years of age, who by their reactions seemed to have been expecting more of a *Rambo*-type movie. Some of their outbursts were interesting.

At one point Charles Sheen, the raw recruit who narrates the film, goes berserk in a fire fight and starts killing everything and anything in sight. He has some success at this, defends his position, and saves both his life and that of the guy next to him.

These young men in the audi-

ence got into this and started cheering. However, a few moments later the Vietnamese troops do the same thing, and this time it is American youth being cut down en masse. My neighbors in the cinema suddenly and noticeably became silent.

John Votava
Chicago, Illinois

Getting out

Just a short note to share with you my joy at my impending release from the state prison system.

While it is certainly true that the prison experience is primarily a wasteful one, through my access to such materials and information as I received through the *Militant*, these past years have not been an entire loss.

I intend to reestablish contact with you once I am released.

A prisoner
Norco, California

Pregnancy leave

Do women have the right to have a child and still keep their jobs? This is not guaranteed; but the Supreme Court recently upheld a California law that allows women to return to their jobs after four months of unpaid "disability" leave for pregnancy.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) filed a friend-of-the-court brief opposing the law, essentially arguing that the creation of a special category of any sort for women will ultimately limit women's rights — not broaden them. The American Civil Liberties Union and some other civil liberties groups took this position as well.

This created something of a debate among members of NOW here in California. A lot of women I talked to felt we should be pushing for more rights, not giving one back.

This challenge to women's legal right to return to a job is part of a more general attack on women's rights. The aim is not to keep us out of the work force; they need our cheap labor. Rather, they want to keep us *marginalized* in the work force, keep us from building up seniority, from joining and organizing unions, and keep us out of nontraditional jobs — "men's jobs." Most importantly, they want to keep us from gaining con-

fidence in our ability to fight to improve our working conditions.

Diana Cantú
San Francisco, California

Warped and twisted

I subscribed to the *Militant* hoping to gain access to another point of view on world events. Instead I get a publication that denounces the U.S. government and the military.

I am a college student enrolled in ROTC. I plan to be a U.S. Army officer and for now I am serving in the army reserves. It angers me to see you abusing your freedom of the press with your warped opinions and twisted facts.

R.L.
Indiana, Pennsylvania

New favorite

The *Nation* and the *Guardian* were my favorite papers until I started reading the *Militant*. You guys do a wonderful job! Keep up the good work.

L.R.
Logan, Utah

Welcome relief

Thank you for allowing me to waive the subscription costs of the *Militant*. I just received my first issue. After being confined to prison darkness for so long, it was a welcome relief to finally see a little light. Your hard-hitting journalism and "tell it like it is" articles are the best.

A prisoner
Loveland, Texas

Victory against FBI

The interview with civil liberties attorney Leonard Boudin in the *Militant* January 30 was most timely in light of the current political crisis in the nation's capital.

One statement in particular by Boudin was very much to the point, his recollection: "I'll never forget when Judge Griesa walked into the courtroom after viewing the FBI files and said, 'Mr. Boudin, you would never believe what's in those files.'"

The content of those files, which the judge himself found "unbelievable," set him free to actually free thousands upon thousands of workers and farmers so they can continue to fight on more unmolested on behalf of their own civil rights.



The Political Rights Defense Fund is developing into a rallying point for the civil rights fight in the United States. I most certainly encourage those seeking real democracy in the United States and everywhere to become involved in this most welcome and fighting development.

Truly it is as Leonard Boudin said just after Judge Griesa issued his ruling: "The impact of this decision goes far beyond the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance."

Let me say in closing that I am extremely happy that ever greater numbers of workers and farmers will benefit from a victory by the SWP and YSA over spying by the United States government against the working class. You cannot be more right than that — under capitalism — can you?

John Enestvedt
Sacred Heart, Minnesota

Foreign war

Concerning the article by Margaret Jayko in the January 30 issue, "Nicaragua, Grenada and the myth of the 'Reagan doctrine,'" I read the whole article with interest and agreement. However, it seemed that it ended all too soon. Although I agree with the last four paragraphs, I felt they were not a sufficient explanation. The very last two paragraphs just began to get at the meat of the matter.

Why does the worsening economic situation make a foreign war harder to wage?

An article or two as part of a series dealing with trade wars, tar-

iff barriers, and the sharpening economic tensions between the U.S. government and Europe would be very useful.

M.F.
Seattle, Washington

Disinformation

I'd like to join the prison subscribers' program. I don't read the regular papers anymore. After the U.S. disinformation incident, who can?

I've chosen the *Militant* for my source on world events.

A prisoner
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Howard Beach

For the first time in my life I became familiar with the *Militant*. After reading the article on Howard Beach, I liked the headline ["Government must jail Howard Beach lynchings!"]

I am a New Yorker, presently incarcerated in a Texas state institution. It's like "prehistoric times" down here in the Lone Star state.

I would be very grateful if you could send me a prisoner subscription. At the moment I am indigent, so I hope you'll send me some rusted copies out of solidarity for the needy, not the greedy!

A prisoner
Midway, Texas

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Teacher victimized for his views

Fred Dube, an ANC spokesperson, denied tenure on political grounds

BY ERNEST HARSCH

Fred Dube, a professor at the State University of New York's Stony Brook campus, has been subjected to political victimization for the views he has expressed in the classroom.

In a two-page decision issued January 30, Clifton Wharton, SUNY's chancellor, formally denied Dube tenure and suggested that he seek a teaching position at another campus.

The decision provoked immediate protests of this violation of academic freedom. Many students and faculty members have charged that Dube was denied tenure not on the basis of his teaching abilities, but on political grounds.

Campaign of smears

Chancellor Wharton's decision caps a four-year campaign of smears and accusations against Dube by the university authorities, Zionist groups, and prominent office holders. Governor Mario Cuomo himself intervened in the case, claiming that Dube's classroom lectures were "intellectually dishonest."

What these forces objected to in particular was a course that Dube taught, called the "Politics of Race," in which he encouraged students to think critically about the ideological pretensions of the Israeli regime and of the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Dube himself is from South Africa. Before he was forced into exile in 1968, he had been a provincial leader of the African



Fred Dube. University officials, Zionists, and N.Y. Gov. Mario Cuomo have joined in campaign to have Dube denied tenure at his teaching job at Stony Brook campus.

National Congress (ANC). He came to the United States in the early 1970s and began teaching in Stony Brook's Africana Studies department in 1977.

Dube has continued to function as a prominent spokesperson of the ANC. Some of those who raised objections to his

course also cited his membership in the ANC, falsely claiming it is a "terrorist" organization.

Broad support

Throughout the campaign against him, Dube has received wide support from stu-

dents and fellow faculty members.

In August 1983 a university senate investigation concluded that Dube's course had not overstepped the bounds of academic freedom, as his critics charged.

The two university bodies that usually have decisive say over tenure cases — the departmental committee and the university personnel committee — both recommended that Dube be granted tenure. But in August 1985 Stony Brook's president, John Marburger, overruled their recommendations and denied tenure. He has accused Dube of introducing "inappropriate external influences" into his course.

Dube appealed Marburger's ruling to Wharton, chancellor of the entire SUNY system. According to the normal procedures in such appeals, a special "chancellor's committee" was set up to consider the case. It was composed of one representative chosen by Dube, one chosen by Marburger, and a third selected by the two other committee members. This committee unanimously recommended that Dube be granted tenure.

After a long delay, Wharton refused to rule, claiming that a member of the committee had made a "breach of confidentiality." (A letter by the American Association of University Professors backing Dube's tenure fight had cited the committee's recommendation.)

Another chancellor's committee was then set up. It too recommended tenure. But when Wharton finally ruled, he rejected the recommendation.

Joel Rosenthal, the chairman of the history department and head of one of the committees that reviewed Dube's case, has criticized the denial of tenure, accusing Wharton of "allowing extramural politics to be involved in a tenure decision."

The Black Students' Union and other campus groups have vowed to continue backing Dube's fight for tenure. Chris Vestudo of the Graduate Student Organization called Wharton's decision "outrageous." He said student leaders are "prepared to stand behind the professor in whatever he decides to do, including whatever protests might be necessary."

Large crowd hears Tambo in L.A.

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — An overflow crowd of more than 4,000 turned out here the evening of February 2 to salute African National Congress President Oliver Tambo and to voice their rejection of the anti-ANC campaign being waged by the Reagan administration and much of the news media.

The meeting to celebrate the ANC's 75th anniversary had been called prior to the announcement that Tambo would be in Los Angeles. It was sponsored and built by a broad array of groups and individuals.

The audience packed Trinity Baptist Church, as well as a large adjoining meeting hall, while still others had to be turned away. Spanish translation was provided.

Members of the audience received a souvenir program, which outlined the history of the ANC and reproduced the ANC's Freedom Charter.

In response to an appeal by Jesse Jackson for funds to aid the ANC, the audience donated more than \$47,000. A few gave \$1,000, but most of the amount came in many donations of \$50, \$100, \$250, or \$500.

Greeting the crowd, Tambo called them "the ordinary men and women — the other America."

"That America derives no benefit from the apartheid system," Tambo said, adding that they will not be deluded by charges of "ANC terrorism."

"The ANC has never been more powerful than it is today" on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, Tambo said. In part this is "because you are here," he added.

"These tyrants are on a rampage as never before," the ANC leader asserted, referring to the Pretoria regime. "We must intensify the political and armed struggle."

Declaring that the "tide has turned in South Africa," Tambo said, "The people of this country have helped us to turn the tide."

Most speakers made a point of refuting

slanders laying the blame for violence in South Africa on the ANC. H. H. Brookins, a prominent clergyman in the Black community here, explained how the ANC's struggle is different from this country's civil rights movement, which relied on non-violent demonstrations.

"Nobody worries if the Founding Fathers took up arms," said Harry Belafonte, the well-known entertainer.

"If you get rid of Pretoria, Africa will see a new day," Belafonte exclaimed. "The whole world will see a new day."

Jesse Jackson said that anti-ANC forces in this country "can't use communism" to intimidate supporters of the South African freedom fighters.

Other speakers included state Assemblywoman Maxine Waters and local anti-apartheid movement leaders Karen Bass and Olivia Mercier.

Event sponsors included Los Angeles Free South Africa Movement; Southern Africa Support Committee; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 36; First AME Church; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Southern California chapter; Fall Mobilization on Central America; Los Angeles Councilman Robert Farrell; International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union locals 55, 84, 96, 97, 482, and 512; United Auto Workers Local 148; Service Employees' International Union Joint Council 8; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Los Angeles chapter; Jack Foley, director, District 1 of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; California Democratic Council; Communist Party; Socialist Workers Party; and many others.

While in Los Angeles Tambo also appeared at a reception at city hall, where he was welcomed by Mayor Thomas Bradley.

At a meeting of close to 1,000 students at California State University at North-

ridge, he was greeted with a standing ovation.

Several Hollywood celebrities, including Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, David Puttnam, Quincy Jones, Jackson Browne, Jane Fonda, and Whoopi Goldberg, also hosted a party for the ANC leader.

Tapes of the meeting at Trinity Baptist Church can be ordered for \$6 from the Free South Africa Movement, 1177 W. 25th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90007.

Protests mount over arrests of Palestinian rights backers

BY LYNN LESNICK

LOS ANGELES — Protests will be held here February 17 to condemn the arrest and threatened deportation of nine supporters of the Palestinian struggle. The nine, arrested January 26, are charged with being supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and with violation of the McCarran-Walter Act, a McCarthyite witch-hunt law.

A Vigil for Justice will be held at Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) headquarters here at noon. Students at California State University at Long Beach, where some of those arrested are students, are also planning protests.

The vigil, to be held the same day as bail hearings, has been called by the Committee for Justice. Among the endorsers of the committee are the Los Angeles Civil Liberties Union, American Friends Service Committee, National Lawyers Guild, Jesse Jackson, and former attorney general Ramsey Clark.

At a news conference February 6, lawyers for the defendants distributed documents obtained from the INS that shed light on the real nature of the arrests.

Entitled "Alien Terrorists and Undesira-

bles: A Contingency Plan," the documents reveal a secret plan by the INS, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Central Intelligence Agency to deport immigrants from countries Washington considers to be "terrorist."

Under the plan, government spy agencies are called upon to provide lists of names of "suspected terrorists," who are then to be targeted for arrest and deportation.

Participants at the news conference pointed out that the arrests are a test case for the secret policy, as well as an assault on the rights of Arab-Americans.

Another significant aspect of the INS plan is its effort to avoid public discussion or a vote on implementation of the policy. The documents recommend the policy be implemented through White House executive order alone.

The Committee for Justice is asking that letters and telegrams of protest be sent to Washington, D.C., to William Webster, director of the FBI, and Alan Nelson, commissioner of the INS. The committee can be contacted at 2440 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90026. Telephone: (213) 413-6318.